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The Week.

THE Republicans have carried Connecticut—Governor, Legislature, and three Congressmen. The vote was small, probably ten thousand smaller than last year, as there is nothing very exciting going on in the political arena, and people were wearied by the Presidential campaign. But the triumph will, it is certain, secure one thing which is very important—the passage of the Fifteenth Amendment, for which people have hardly ventured to count on Connecticut.

A week from Tuesday last, in the Senate, Mr. Sprague made another of the speeches with which he has recently been surprising everybody who knows how silent he has been for a good many years, during which he might have spoken with as much effect as now. He deplored the corruption and misery of this country in such a way that he stands a chance of being quoted in several leading British journals. On the following day by a vote of 48 to 8—seven Democrats and Mr. Sprague making the 8—the Conference Committee's Tenure-of-Office Bill was agreed to. On to-day week Mr. Sumner introduced a bill to facilitate telegraphic communication with Europe. It lays down certain conditions with which all companies must comply before they can be permitted to land their cables on our shores. The principal conditions are that Congress shall have power to fix the tariff of charges for telegrams, and that this Government shall have certain privileges in the matter of transmitting official messages. On Friday nothing of much consequence was done. On motion of Mr. Fessenden, Mr. Harlan's amendment to the bill in relation to the appointment of ten unpaid Indian Commissioners was thus far modified that the new commissioners exercise not an absolute power over the removal of Indian agents and the disbursements of Indian appropriations, but only a joint power which they share with the Indian Bureau. Meantime the Society of Friends are to furnish a certain number of agents, and will probably furnish a certain number of the commissioners; for Grant, whether he learned it in Philadelphia or elsewhere, has evidently been much smitten with the Friends, who, by the way, are not altogether dependent on William Penn, as some of the correspondents seem inclined to suppose, for contemporary respect. On Monday the Senate agreed to adjourn on Monday next. Previously Mr. Wilson had made a motion, of which we may some time see the fruits, to the effect that the Judiciary Committee be directed to report a bill defining the right construction of the eight-hour law. A "workingman's friend" rabidly in earnest might almost have felt inclined to urge the passage of a new law, instead of asking for a dilatory report on an old one upon which Mr. Evarts has already exhausted his ingenuity, without apparently finding out whether or not it was meant to mean anything in particular—after election.

On the last day of March—Wednesday—the House was busy with the bill for reconstructing the State of Mississippi, but no conclusion was reached until the following day, when the debate was very lively—if that is the term to be used in describing a debate in which Mr. Butler shone with an almost morbid naturalness. He was remonstrated with by some of his fellow-members for an unprovoked and savage attack on Mr. Dawes. Mr. Dawes, by the way, got very much the better of Mr. Butler in the struggle for important places on the House Committees. The vote for deferring action on the Mississippi case until next December stood 103 to 62. On to-day week Mr. Noah Davis, of this State—a gentleman who has at once taken a forward place among the new members and bids fair to be a valuable member—introduced a bill defining vacancies in office and regulating resignations. It covers a little bit of the ground which Mr. Jenckes's bill would cover, and which it would cover all the sooner if members such as Mr. Davis would work for it. On Friday nothing was done but discuss Mr. John Covode's case, which, however, was not disposed of. On notice of General Paine the whole subject was recommitted to the Committee on Elections, who were directed to report on the merits of the case. The previous report had been that "the *prima facie* evidence" was in Mr. Covode's favor. Judges in the United States Courts have too much to do, and judges in Pennsylvania, where Mr. Covode happens to come from, are elective, as they are in too many States, or it would seem a good thing to send Mr. Covode and his competitor with their charges and counter-charges of bribery and intimidation before a judicial commission who might try their cause without political partiality. As it is, we hear now from the Democrats—what ten years from now we may be hearing in the sad tones of Republicans—that there is no chance of a claimant who belongs to the minority, getting justice or much pretence of justice from committeemen who are members of the dominant party. And it is so natural that this should be so that it would be highly useful if some legislation on the subject could soon be had. When it is remembered how greatly larger is the power of a two-thirds majority than of a mere majority, and how few votes may make all the difference between a mere majority and a majority that shall be able to overrule a President, the importance is seen of not leaving it in the hands of violent partisans to say which twenty out of forty men shall occupy seats in the House. On Saturday Mr. Butler reported from the Judiciary Committee a bill likely to pass, and which, it is to be hoped, the States may soon severally embody in their statute books, permitting husbands and wives to be witnesses against each other (except as to private conversations between themselves) in criminal cases in all United States Courts, and permitting criminals also in the same courts to testify in their own cases if so disposed. On the same day the House concurred in the Senate's proposal to adjourn next Monday.

The long trouble about the Tenure-of-Office Act came to an end, so far as Congress was concerned, on yesterday week. On that day both the Senate and the House agreed to a bill which had been decided as a sort of a compromise between keeping the present law as it stands and the total abrogation of it. In truth, however, the compromise is of such a character that the Senate still retains much more influence than it ever had previous to ex-President Johnson's time; and the people have less, and the politicians have more power over office-holders than they had when, as formerly, one man singly could be held responsible for the use and abuse of the authority to appoint to office. Under the new bill, which the President has signed, he cannot permanently and unconditionally remove from an office a man incompetent to fill it, or a man who disgraces it, unless first he gets the leave of a majority of sixty-odd senators doing "executive

business," in "secret session," and who give or withhold the reasons of their votes and the record of their votes just as may seem to them best.

Still, if the President is not anxiously desirous of having the public service properly done, if he is not unwilling to be in a state of chronic warfare with another branch of the Government, there is a chance afforded him by the new bill to make use of a legal fiction which may serve the purpose well enough. The "suspension" of office-holders during the Congressional recess is freely permitted him. And when the Senate meets again there is nothing in the law to prevent the President's proving to Mr. Fenton, say, and to Mr. Conkling, if he can, that it is for the political, pecuniary, and all other interests of these gentlemen, and for the public interest besides, that the person whom he has appointed to the place of the suspended person shall be allowed to stay in it. And then, should Mr. Fenton and Mr. Conkling be of opinion that their political and other plans for the future would be better subserved by their inducing the Senate to decline to give its assent to the removal and appointment, and should the Senate so be induced—why, then the President is permitted by the new bill to watch for the adjournment of the Senate, put in the Senate's man for a day or two, and immediately afterwards, at the cost of more or less confusion and expense, resuspend him and reappoint the man of his own choice. In brief, the new scheme gives him power, first, to acquiesce in what appointment Mr. Fenton and Mr. Conkling—to stick to the case of this State—may choose to dictate; or else, secondly, to spend his official term in a succession of more or less profitless suspensions and appointments and resuspensions and reappointments—that is, in a fight with senators about money-making offices; or else, thirdly, it gives him unlimited power to go into office-trading, into secular simony with the two gentlemen who have served us by way of illustration and with senators generally. We should have been gratified to hear that the House had stood out for unconditional repeal; and failing that, it would have been good news, we think, that the President's signature to the bill was unobtainable; as it stands it is an office-seekers' measure.

Senator Sprague's speeches have called forth rather more comments than they seem to merit. The value of his criticisms on the moral and commercial condition of the country seems to have been settled, without any help from the public, by his proposal that the Government should go into the free banking business, and supply the "poor man" with capital in the shape of small loans on good security. Any business man who seriously brings forward a suggestion of this kind in the present year of grace disarms hostility. Mr. Sprague turns savagely on the press of his own State, and has written a letter to the editor of the *Providence Journal* which shows that his opinion of that gentleman, which has long been low, is now rapidly declining. The sole good quality, it would appear, for which he gives him credit, is courage, the existence of which he discovers, strangely enough, in the editor's voluntary revelation of his "dastardliness" and "cowardice." He concludes his letter with the somewhat mysterious phrase, "Show this to Ives & Co.," which, as interpreted by the *Journal*, is simply an insidious stab at "the widely-known house of Brown, Ives & Co." of Providence. "Why those estimable citizens should be thus referred to in such a communication is," says the *Journal*, "beyond our comprehension." We hope our contemporary will not throw the subject aside in despair.

Mr. D. A. Wells has replied to Judge Kelley's attacks on him, producing a large body of the evidence on which the statements were made in his reports with regard to the comparative increase in wages and in the cost of living since 1860. He showed by the returns of the United States Commissary-General that the army rations of flour, which cost \$6.77 per barrel in gold in 1859-60, in New York, has cost during the past year \$12.72 in currency, an increase of eighty-eight per cent.; that the fisheries of North Carolina had been kept down since the war by the high price of salt, which had risen from eighteen or twenty cents a bushel to seventy cents; that by the table of wages paid to the workmen em-

ployed on the Treasury extension in Washington, who are certainly not the worst paid men in the country, the average increase in the wages of workmen has been fifty-eight and one-half per cent.; that, taking Massachusetts as an illustration, while the savings bank deposits in that State were \$45,054,000 in gold in 1860, they were in 1867 \$59,579,000 in gold also, the increase not being sufficient to cover the simple interest on the amount in bank in 1860, thus showing that the working classes have, during the last seven years, not only not saved, but have actually been eating into the savings of previous years. Judge Kelley, by shrewdly comparing the gold deposits of 1860 with the currency deposits of 1867 of course made out a very fine case for his side of the question. We have here only selected one or two of the points in Mr. Wells's statement. His evidence is equally overwhelming as regards house rents and the price of provisions; and some of his exposures of the small snares in which his opponents have tried to entangle him, are as nearly amusing as anything in a controversy of this kind can well be. He very properly thanks Mr. Kelley, at the close of his letter, for giving him an occasion for writing it.

The *Tribune*, which supported Mr. Kelley in contradicting Mr. Wells, and accusing him of dishonesty of the grossest kind—"jugglery," for instance—carefully refrains from publishing his reply. To his proof about the price of flour, which, it maintained stoutly, was, if anything, lower now than in 1860, it rejoins simply that although the Government paid \$12.72 a barrel for flour for the soldiers last year, "we must say any shrewd merchant who had wanted as much flour as the Government bought here in 1867-8, and had had cash to pay for it, would have bought it considerably below \$12.72 the barrel." This curiously enough reminds the journal of Mr. Edward Young, Mr. Wells's assistant, whose work it once more pronounces "smart" and not "creditable to himself or his master." This too will suggest to most respectable readers a question or two of a disagreeable nature as to the quality of the *Tribune's* performances in this matter. To Mr. Wells's figures touching house rents, it replies that he takes no account of the fact "that the means of cheap conveyance for the masses to and from the outskirts of the large cities have been largely multiplied and diffused." A more ludicrous termination to a rather discreditable controversy is not often witnessed.

A good many appointments have been made during the week, to which—the propriety of making changes being conceded—there is no serious objection to be made. We doubt, indeed, if so many respectable men have been put in government offices at once for many a long day. But they are all inferior officers. The great ambassadorial prizes, except that of Paris, are still undistributed. Mr. Motley is talked of most for England, and Horace Greeley is put up as his rival, but more by newspaper wags than "practical men." Horrible uncertainty still hangs around the New York Post-office, and it is not at all impossible that this goal of his desires, on which his eye has been fixed for so many weary years, Mr. Greeley may eventually reach. Mr. Grinnell has taken possession of the custom-house, Mr. Smythe taking his departure in the usual cloud of mutual compliments. To what extent Mr. Grinnell will adhere to the old custom of giving a fresh batch of citizens a chance to serve their country, we are unable to say; but he has a chance of doing the Government and the country a great service, by appointing nobody without subjecting him to a fixed test, the same for all candidates. He has already delivered a little speech against the acceptance of bribes by custom-house clerks; "in his humble judgment," he says "the practice is wrong and improper." He need not be so modest about his opinion, however, as it is one which he shares with all the noblest members of the human family. He might nearly as well say, that after much anxious consideration he was strongly inclined to the conclusion that burglars and assassins were bad men.

Those who agree with the *Sun* in thinking the government business is done on the whole about as well as private business, and that anybody who declaims against "the men inside politics" is "transcendental," would do well to read the report recently published by the Congressional Committee appointed last year to examine the bond and

note-printing department of the Treasury. We have no space at present to enter into details, but the substance of what the Committee say is this—that they have found, with regard to nearly every description of government securities, discrepancies in the accounts between the number printed and number issued, showing that some of them disappeared after leaving the printing-press; they have found the books kept in the most careless way, no record at all being preserved of many very important transactions, and a very imperfect one of others; that no pains whatever have been taken to secure the proper numbering of the government bonds, the work being actually left, without verification, largely to the memory of the person in charge of the printing machine. The testimony tends to show, the Committee say, that “the numerical registers of issue are rather theoretical than actual records of transactions; that is, that the clerks in charge did not compare each issue of the bonds by their consecutive numbers with the registry entries, or make the entries in the register from such comparison; but that they made up the entries in the register, as a rule, by taking the first and last number of any particular lot of securities, and making the entries from those, and assuming that all the numbers between were consecutive regularly, and not duplicate. It is also suggested as to the duplicate coupons, that as they are numbered at a different time from the number on the bond, they may have been duplicated and the bond not.”

A more disgraceful state of things in a large public office charged with the handling of immense sums of money has, we venture to say, never been revealed in a civilized country within the present century; but what is, if possible, more remarkable than the disorder of the revenue is the mild language used by the Committee in describing it. To the grossest ignorance, incompetency, and neglect of duty, they hardly venture to apply any stronger epithet than “unsatisfactory.” But they wind up with a sentiment worth quoting, and which we commend to the attention of that large and growing body of persons who are convinced that the present state of things cannot last:

“On a general survey of the operations covered by the investigation of the Committee, they could not fail to be struck with the difference in the management and details, both personal and otherwise, between such operations carried on by paid officers, having certain fixed hours of labor, and feeling no other responsibility at best than that of doing their duty from 9 o'clock in the morning until 4 o'clock in the afternoon, and similar operations carried on by private persons or corporations, where the individual property and success of the persons managing the same was involved, and where no other motive for employing subordinates existed than that of obtaining those persons who could bring to their duties the greatest amount of capacity and fidelity. It must be confessed that such a comparison is decidedly unfavorable to the Government engaging in any operations of this character where it can possibly be dispensed with. Of course the committee do not mean to intimate that all or even the majority of the persons employed by the Government in these affairs are either incapable or unfaithful; but, from political and other causes, so large an element of incapacity, carelessness, and unfaithfulness is introduced into the operations as in a considerable degree to derange and paralyze the efforts of those who are sincerely desirous of doing the best possible for the Government.”

General Longstreet's nomination for the Collectorship of New Orleans has been confirmed, after some fierce opposition in the Senate from Parson Brownlow, who read a paper against him based on the incidents of the General's campaigns in East Tennessee. Another senator read extracts against him from an old article in *Blackwood's Magazine*, but all in vain. The hostility to the appointment on the part of the Unionist element at the South is of course intense, but it is nevertheless perhaps the wisest and most statesmanlike Grant has made. The principal duty of the Government at the South is not, as many people imagine, to “pay off” transgressors and keep the best offices for the faithful, but to do what it can to make the South peaceful, prosperous, and contented, and there is only one way of doing this, and that is by reconciling the disaffected white population to the new order of things. The objection hitherto usually made to forgiving or forgetting the misdeeds of the rebels has been that they would not “repent,” but General Longstreet has humbly “repented,” and the

very best way of building up a real Union party at the South, composed of the influential portion of the people, is to show that “repentance” really does find acceptance at Washington, and is likely to be followed not merely by pardon, but reward. Of course this is not exact “justice,” but then exact justice is not within our reach, while scientific government is. If everybody got his due, Parson Brownlow would certainly not be in the Senate, as he spent a great many years of his life in helping to bring the war about, and a good many Southern Unionists would be engaged in work better suited to their character and capacity and antecedents than legislation for Southern rebels.

We have followed the Cuban news of the past week with such perspicacity as we can command and in a spirit of perfect candor. The accounts of the extent and progress of the insurrection which we have perused in the columns of our contemporaries, as well as the Banks preparations for recognition at Washington, have led us to expect, and very confidently we admit, the overthrow of the Spanish power in the island, not later than the first of April. What the delay is due to, we are unable to say. We have seen, it is true, in one of the illustrated papers, a sketch of a furious battle in a dark and lonesome glen, between the royalist and rebel forces, by “an officer of the Cuban staff,” but on the other hand a large body of respectable persons persist in denying the existence of either Cuban army or “staff,” and the *New York Times* speaks of “an English gentleman—an impartial observer”—who has been riding through the island in search of the rebellion; but he writes to his friends that at each village they declared it to be raging a few miles off, like the fever and ague in the country districts here, and he never came up with it. He at last got back to Havana without seeing a shot fired. But then he was perhaps a Spanish sympathizer. The Spaniards, however, occasionally report a sharp set-to with insurgents, but where, when, or under what circumstances, never comes out. The news of the last week is that “information from reliable sources” has been received at no less a place than Key West, that two Peruvian monitors are really in the service of the revolutionists; that an English captain had been thrown into jail; two volunteers sentenced to exile; that seven incendiaries had been executed for destroying plantations; and that a revolutionary steamer had been wrecked. We looked with interest for fuller details, too, from Rear-Admiral Hoff's report to the Navy Department, but all he seems to know about the rebellion is that the Captain-General has issued a proclamation directed against blockade runners and sympathizers, and that there had been a disturbance at Havana on Sunday the 21st ult., when several persons were killed; that an American citizen was in prison, and that the election of members to the Cortes would probably not be held till the insurrection was over.

We strongly suspect that the Cuban revolution, like the Irish Republic, is quartered in this city, and that most of the military operations are carried on, as nearly as we can make out, in the neighborhood of the New York City Hall. The insurgent troops converge on the open space in horse-cars about ten o'clock at night, without uniform, and with their arms concealed carefully, and then open vigorously on the Spanish power from several of the adjoining houses, keeping up the attack till the small hours of the morning. How long it will take for the Spaniards to be driven out of the island in this way, it is not for an unprofessional bystander to say positively, but if any faith is to be reposed in military history, it will be a good while. The movement down-town is vigorously supported by Cubans of the upper classes, in the parlors of the up-town hotels, by the utterance of the noblest and most patriotic sentiments. The Cuban committee here have issued an address, setting forth their grievances, which are numerous, as the world already knew. They have also agents in Washington hard at work for recognition, and they have either developed or are availing themselves of the strong annexational fever which now rages there. There is a strong party of politicians in favor of helping the Cubans to achieve their independence as a step towards absorption. The “Dominican Ring” is also busy, for a more promising enterprise than the acquisition of Hayti has not offered itself for many a day.

"CONFIDENCE"

PROMINENT among the senators who really debated the Tenure-of-Office Repeal Bill was Mr. Fessenden. The others, as we pointed out two weeks ago, made orations about it for the benefit of their constituents and the sacred "record," but as for debating, that had already been done in caucus. Mr. Fessenden, however, who has the natural repugnance of an independent man to secrecy and artifice, stood up in his place like those of old time, and gave his real reasons in favor of voting for repeal. His speech contained more of general interest than that of any of his colleagues, and not the least interesting part of his argument was that in which he deprecated the reasoning employed by certain senators who had maintained that the Tenure-of-Office Act ought to be repealed because of the Senate's "confidence in Grant." This confidence, Mr. Fessenden in effect urged (though he did not use just these words), however excellent as a ground for lending money to the general on his note of hand, or for trusting your minor children in his company, or for allowing him to know the key to your burglar-proof safe combination lock, was no reason at all for passing laws affecting the administration of a great country for generations to come. If Congress was to be asked to change its legislation whenever it felt nervous, general laws might as well be given up, and private bills be used in all cases. Mr. Fessenden said that he should vote for repeal for the same reason that he had voted against the original bill, because he had then thought, and still did think, the law a bad one. We need hardly say that we fully believe in the necessity of basing legislation on general principles; that the most dangerous disease that can beset popular government is the passion for basing it on personal or temporary considerations. Nay, we are willing to go much further, and to say that one of the greatest dangers of this particular government at this particular moment is precisely this kind of law-making; it having become the fashion for Congress and for the legislatures all over the country to make use of their powers in the interest of any man or measure in which they "have confidence." Now, they have confidence in a discredited railroad corporation, and show their feeling (just as an indulgent mother would) by "tipping" it. Now, it is a bankrupt steamboat company, now it is some wild-cat philanthropist on behalf of a Western "university," now it is a decayed political artist with a bad picture to sell.

In all this there is not even the pretence of a system; one bill is left and another bill is taken; one petitioner is subsidized and another has leave to withdraw, as the great legislative heart has been attracted or repelled. It is like the granting of favors by an Eastern despot; no man knows why or wherefore. So universal has the practice become that it is now of the greatest consequence to corporations, colleges, and institutions of every sort to have some one in their employ who has the art of inspiring "confidence." In the same way Congress, having full faith in Mr. Lincoln, let him remove any one he pleased from office; doubting Mr. Johnson, it refused him the same privilege, and now half doubting Gen. Grant, it gives him a tether. There can be no doubt that personal considerations were in reality the only ones which governed the two Houses in their recent action; or that the number of those who, like Mr. Fessenden, thought it necessary to vote in accordance with settled political principles, was very small. But, although it is perfectly clear that acts which regulate matters of such gravity as the tenure of office should not be made and unmade on personal grounds, there is another side to this matter. It is not only the President and Senate and House which are interested in this question—there is a fourth estate as vitally concerned in it as any of the other three—we mean the Public. And although confidence or want of confidence in particular persons is in general the poorest of all reasons for making or changing laws, still it remains true that "confidence in Grant" is one of the most potent political agencies at work among the public at present, one which will neither be ignored, nor laughed out of the way; one which may become, and is not unlikely to become, the strongest of them all.

It must be pretty evident to any one who has been observing the course of politics for the last few years, that the political class have lost their hold on the confidence of the people to a very extraordinary degree. Eight years ago, if any one said that politics were running

down, that the character of public men was deteriorating, and that honest men could not find a career any longer in political life, he was treated either with good-natured contempt as a constitutional grumbler, or else was denounced as a base-hearted Sybarite. He was requested to look at the imminent downfall of Slavery, and to consider the devotion to country shown by the thousands of patriots rushing on to Richmond. If he urged that the reply did not meet the complaint, and that corruption in the governing class might perfectly well co-exist with great nobility of soul in the body of the governed, he used to be silenced for ever by a hint that he had probably been in Paris or else reading the "philosophers" too much of late, and that if he had been attending town-meetings and supporting the institutions of his country instead of filling his head with foreign notions, he would not have sunk so low. Nay, it even went further than that: when the bitter lessons of the war had taught us conclusively that the politicians were not fit for the task assigned them, the upholders of our "institutions" invented, after the usual manner, a theory, which was to explain the peculiar character of our situation, and show to the satisfaction of our friends and the confusion of our enemies that the one need not be so downcast, nor the other so triumphant. And this was—that it was rather a beneficial thing for a republic to have men of inferior capacities and doubtful honor in office, because it increased so much the public watchfulness and interest in politics. To know the history of Fernando Wood was a liberal education to any ordinary voter.

But the theory has not turned out what its authors expected. Strange to say, the idea has been steadily gaining ground that the "epicureans" and grumblers were in the right after all, and that our political class was a very degraded one, and that the popular estimate of a "politician" as being the typical rogue of our day and generation was correct. How long it would have taken in the ordinary course of things for this truth to prevail, it is impossible to say; but the event which more than any other hastened the moment of its triumph, and was the immediate cause of it, was the accession of Grant. When it turned out that Grant was really awake to the importance of getting a new kind of man into positions of political trust, he furnished a rallying point for the vague feelings of distrust and discontent which had been so long growing, and which had hitherto found no means of expressing itself. Colonel McClure's rebuff, and the original choice of his Cabinet put it beyond question that Grant did really mean to see whether somewhere in America there could not be found a kind of statesman better than the sort produced by the caucus system. And the moment it did become evident, the President was assured from one end of the country to the other that he would be supported in his endeavors, and that the country confided in the strength of his desire to purify the public service, to introduce into it efficiency and honesty. This is that "confidence in Grant" which, as we just now said, is one of the most important political sentiments in the country, and may, if Grant pursues as wise a course as he promises to pursue, materially change the aspect of politics and the relations of parties. During Johnson's administration, Congress was the body which public trusted, and that trust was by no means misplaced, as events showed. A Congress elected for the express purpose of maintaining a certain well-defined policy in opposition to another equally well-defined policy, might be trusted to do it. Johnson was to get all the States in that he could, and Congress had been instructed to prevent his getting States in; and they did prevent him. But reconstruction is at an end, and on the new questions which now arise, Congress is not known to have any policy at all. There has been a great deal of talk in both House and Senate about the necessity of reform, but in the nature of things, what is said cannot be meant. It would be as absurd to expect any genuine desire for good government among most of the members of Congress as it would be to expect any genuine attempt at reforming the railroad system from a convention of stock operators. Their constituents have indeed to watch them, from hour to hour, lest some new swindle of annexation, or financiering, or subsidizing, or "claim" of some kind, be foisted upon the country against its will. Can any one have any confidence in the passage by the House of Jenckes's Civil Service Bill, when its enactment would deprive the House of half its corruptest power? It is true enough

that the House and Senate are with the newspapers and the public at large in declaiming about the necessity of purity in the administration of government. But this great point should not be lost sight of, that by "purity" they mean Republican administration, and by "impurity" the holding of offices by their opponents. Now, this is not what the public or Grant means, and the result is that the public distrust more and more the House and Senate, while they confide more and more in Grant. The most curious evidence of the growing importance of this fact is the conduct of the Opposition. The Democrats long ago divined that their greatest danger lay in the chance that the Republicans might by some accident find a leader who would be something more than a mere party man, and accordingly after doing their utmost to draw Grant over to their side, have been spending their energies since their failure in covering him with the vilest abuse—the only possible reason being that they are most profoundly afraid of his reputation for high character. They labor to show that he, too, is a mere politician, that his professions of desire for reform are a hollow mockery, that corruption and intrigue are his tools, as they are those of the party managers. The *World* appears to believe the old reconstruction question a trifle, compared with the question of the villany of the new President.

NATIONAL BANKING LEGISLATION.

CONGRESS is again at work making new laws and amending old ones with a view to regulating that most important financial and commercial machine, our bank system. The bill recently passed in the Senate, best known as the bill to redistribute the National Bank currency, is in reality intended to correct several evils and injustices in the existing laws; but it owes its importance almost exclusively to the last section, which provides that all banks having a note circulation in excess of certain specified amounts, varying according to capital and locality, shall reduce that circulation, in a certain proportion, and that in exchange for the circulation so withdrawn by banks in the great cities and in the Eastern States, a similar amount of notes may be issued by banks in smaller cities and in the Western and Southern States.

The many exciting questions agitating the public mind since the inauguration of the new administration have prevented the proposed bank measure from receiving the public attention that it is entitled to. Many persons have also thought, that it was a measure concerning the banks alone, and hence have not seriously examined it. But it is in truth a very important bill, not so much on account of what it is designed to accomplish, as on account of its being the first serious attack on what have long been considered the vested rights of the national banks, and as the first indication of the coming reaction which must remove from the whole system much of its injustice and monopoly, or lead it to entire destruction.

The bill sets forth, that the object to be accomplished is "to secure a better distribution of the national banking currency." Now the national banking currency has, like every other currency, a very remarkable faculty of distributing itself, without the aid of Congress or any other power. Currency will always go where valuable property is for sale cheap, and it obstinately refuses to go anywhere else. If the South has a large amount of surplus products and offers them for sale at a lower price than the same products can be bought at anywhere else, and is not willing to sell them except for cash, the cash or currency will go to the South just as inevitably as water will run down hill. If the South, after getting this currency, wants silks and satins, or ploughs and wagons, or teas and coffees, from the North, and the North is not willing to sell them except for cash, the currency will come back to New York with as unerring certainty as it first went in the opposite direction. If the South, instead of wanting Northern products and foreign products imported at Northern ports, is satisfied to save, and consume only its own domestic productions, it will retain the currency received for its surplus sold, and will keep it just as long as it pleases, and neither Congress nor its laws can make that currency come North or go West or leave the South, except by downright spoliation. It is precisely the same with the East and the West. It makes no difference how much currency the East has; if the West has plenty of wheat and beef to sell, and will not sell it except for cash,

the Eastern currency will go West after the wheat and beef, in spite of everything and everybody. But if the West will not sell its wheat, but, on the contrary, piles it up in barns and store-houses and elevators, or fuses to sell it at the prices at which it can be bought elsewhere, of recourse no currency will go to the West. If the West, looking at these vast accumulations of produce, and valuing them at an imaginary price, thinks itself rich and spends accordingly, and buys of the East large quantities of manufactured goods and imported luxuries, it has to pay for them, and of course not only will no Eastern currency go West, but the West will have to send its own currency to the East to settle its accounts. Can Congress alter or hinder this? Of course it cannot.

The currency movement going on at the present time, which lends a faint show of sense to the new Congressional enactment, is just this: At the close of the war the North had, leaving out of view the interest-bearing currency of the Government and the amount since contracted by Mr. McCulloch, about seven hundred millions of currency. The South had none. The limited supply of gold tenaciously hoarded during the struggle, and the few greenbacks smuggled across the lines by the far-sighted, at once came North to pay for absolute necessities of life and keep an exhausted people from actual starvation. What the cash did not suffice to pay for was sent down on credit, in the anticipation that the cotton on hand and the next year's crop would speedily enable the South to repay these advances. But neither the first nor the second year's crop was at all equal to expectation, and the South has, ever since the war, continued in a state of extreme poverty, which has entirely prevented it from accumulating a supply of currency of its own. But this extreme of poverty taught the South a lesson, once known of all, but apparently long since forgotten, and which the North and West will only re-learn when taught by the same stern teacher—the lesson of economy. Working and saving, the South started last spring on a new career. Favored by a combination of happy influences, it opened the current year with a light indebtedness and a large stock of cotton selling at high prices. The consequence was inevitable. Currency has been going South ever since. At the same time the West, deluded with the belief that the war and famine prices of the last few years could be maintained forever, has refused to part with its grain and has continued to purchase luxuries. The currency of the West has consequently been coming East. In 1865 the South had no currency. It is impossible to ascertain how much it has now, but it unquestionably has an important amount. This currency has been drawn from the North, East, and West, *but mainly from the West*, for the reason that the West, more than any other part of the country, has been unwilling to recognize and accept the changed condition of affairs, and has refused to sell its products at their diminished market value. This loss of currency by the West and North has been the first and best recognized, though not by any means the only or even the most important, cause of the recent stringency in the money markets, a stringency so severe and long continued as to threaten a severe financial collapse. It is one of the most natural, healthful, and intelligible financial movements of the time; but, of course, it presses hard upon all people trading with borrowed capital or dependent upon bank facilities for the transaction of their daily business. It presses hardest of all upon the speculative holders of merchandise, stocks, and real estate all over the country. Just now, as already indicated, the West is most largely engaged in such speculations, and consequently needs its currency most at the very time when it is doing everything to drive it away, and at the very time when the South is doing everything to obtain it. This natural course of the currency movement Congress is called on to stop and correct. It is not the South that asks for the so-called re-distribution, it is the West; and Congress, with its usual sublime faith in its own omnipotence, actually decrees that the laws of nature shall stand in abeyance, and that currency shall flow, not where its owners choose to send it, but where Congress dictates.

It must be evident to every one, not only that Congress cannot possibly accomplish what it pretends to undertake, namely, to secure a better distribution of the currency, but, also, that the measure proposed must be totally barren of the results anticipated. If any of the

districts, States, or Territories, which are to obtain a fresh supply of currency under this bill, have the means to obtain currency under its provisions, they must have precisely the same means to obtain the same amount of currency now, without the aid of the bill. Congress does not *give away* currency, it only gives the privilege of obtaining currency on the pledge of United States securities. If the people of a Territory or of one of the States have the United States securities, they can get the currency for them at any moment in New York or elsewhere, no matter how tight the money market may be. But if they have not the United States securities, the new bill of Congress will not help them to get one single dollar of currency beyond what they have now. If they have not the securities, and still want to take advantage of the new law, they must take the currency required to buy the bonds to one of the money centres, and, after buying the bonds, deposit them in Washington, when they will receive back somewhat less currency than they invested in bonds. Surely the people of that Territory or State gain no additional currency by that operation. It is precisely the same if the bonds are paid for in grain or cotton or produce of any kind, for by the direct sale of the produce the same amount of currency would be obtained. The more closely the question is examined, the more clearly will it appear that nothing that Congress can do will add one dollar to the circulation or currency of any State or Territory beyond what the people of that State or Territory have to-day the ability to obtain without the slightest aid from Congress.

But if the measure of Congress will not give to these districts a larger supply of currency than what they now have, what good will it do them? It gives them the privilege to *issue* the currency, but it does not thereby add to the supply at their disposal, or have the slightest tendency to make money easier or to increase their borrowing facilities. Now as long as this privilege of issuing currency does not make currency cheaper, it must be a matter of absolute indifference to the people using it, by whom or whence this currency is issued. You cannot borrow currency issued by New York banks any cheaper in New York than currency issued by a New England bank or a Western bank. Nor is the money issued by a Chicago bank lent any cheaper in Chicago than that issued by a bank of Philadelphia. If a private banker in Omaha to-morrow acquired the privilege under the new act of Congress of issuing one hundred thousand dollars of new currency, he will not lend the currency thus issued any cheaper than the greenbacks or New England bank-bills which he had been lending heretofore. The people who use the currency do not therefore care one straw where the currency is issued. It is only the people who issue the currency who have an interest in the question. It is only the people who want to issue the currency, that desire to see this bill become a law, that desire to see the "better distribution of the currency secured" by act of Congress. Designing men, taking advantage of the prevailing ignorance on this and similar subjects, have sought to represent the high price of money at the West as due to the imperfect distribution of the currency, and have misled Congress into adopting a bill which can only lead to fresh disturbances of the currency market without accomplishing one object for which it was designed.

The reason why men are anxious to obtain a re-distribution of the currency, and to secure to themselves the privilege of issuing a part of the circulation that is to be withdrawn from the existing banks, is simply, that the issuing of national bank currency is extremely profitable. The person who holds to-day one hundred thousand dollars in United States bonds, draws six per cent. gold interest on them, or nearly eight per cent. interest in currency. If he acquires the privilege of a national bank, and deposits his bonds in the United States Treasury, he receives the eight per cent. interest on his bonds all the same, and has further ninety thousand dollars in currency, which he can lend at six or seven or more per cent., thus making from fourteen to fifteen per cent. interest on his investment. Or, to put it in another shape, the holder of one hundred thousand dollars of United States bonds, if he wants to borrow ninety thousand dollars on them in the open market, cannot do so without paying at least seven per cent. interest on the borrowed money; but if he has a national bank charter, he virtually

borrow the same amount free of interest. This evident and palpable advantage that the owner of a national bank charter has over all other holders of bonds, naturally makes the privilege a desirable one, and has had a great deal to do with securing the passage of the bill. A number of individuals in the large cities and in the Eastern States have secured national bank charters, which were granted and received in perfect good faith, but which have since been proved to be very valuable monopolies. There are plenty of people in all sections of the country, both where there are banks and where there are none, who would like to possess a share of these same valuable monopolies. In the sections where banks abound, there is no opportunity to do so, but under the pretence of the unequal distribution of the currency, Congress is about to give that opportunity, to a limited extent, to some individuals in the States where banks are least numerous. This is virtually nothing more than an attempt to take away from the present *bona-fide* possessor a portion of monopoly, and to bestow it on some one else, whose only title to it is the activity and loudness of his clamors against the injustice with which the monopoly was originally distributed; as though a monopoly could be evenly divided.

MR. WELLS AND HIS ASSAILANTS.

MR. DAVID A. WELLS has published his reply to his assailants, and the spectacle of their discomfiture, besides gratifying morbid curiosity, furnishes matter for a good deal of profitable reflection. The feature of the attacks made on him which was probably most repulsive, was their presumptuousness, inasmuch as they consisted in simple contradiction on matters of fact, of which he had made a laborious examination, and of which his opponents had not made and never pretended to have made any examination whatever. That Mr. Wells had "juggled," and "misrepresented," and "manipulated figures," and was bribed by "British gold" to make a false report, was simply a deduction made by Messrs. Carey, Kelley, and Greeley from certain doctrines of political economy held by them, and the soundness of which is denied by the vast majority of those who have made economical questions their serious study. Mr. Wells's assailants believe that high tariffs conduce to the prosperity of the working classes; therefore any man who says that in a particular country possessing a high tariff, the working classes are not prosperous, must be a knave, and has probably been bribed to lie by persons interested in the importation of foreign goods. This would be a tolerably cool and impudent piece of inference coming from anybody, but coming from these gentlemen who, whatever else they have done, have not during the last four or five years devoted any systematic attention to the examination of the questions of which Mr. Wells treated in his report, it is hard to know how to characterize it. Mr. Kelley's fitness for scientific investigation of any subject, it is hardly necessary to expatiate upon to anybody who is familiar with his public speeches; and whatever the extent of Mr. Greeley's powers and attainments may be, they have during the last seven years been expended almost exclusively on the popularization, in the columns of magazines and weekly papers, of the question of Reconstruction, which he has examined from every mortal point of view. Mr. H. C. Carey has a theory of the duties of governments and the causes of national prosperity, which has the merit of originality, and which has both here and in Europe obtained considerable circulation and attention. The number of his auditors or disciples amongst men of education may now almost be counted on one's fingers, and his later contributions to social science have been marked by a most remarkable incapacity for the simplest work of logical inference. But he has always enjoyed the reputation of being a gentleman on paper, as well as in private life; and it was therefore a shock both to those who believe in him as an economist and those who do not, to find him using against Mr. Wells one of the rustiest and clumsiest of the wretched collection of weapons with which the *New York Tribune* carries on its warfare. All these gentlemen were placed, for the purposes of the discussion, in the very unfortunate position of having no knowledge, or next to none, of the subject on which they attacked Mr. Wells's accuracy, while he happened to be the only

man in the country who thoroughly understood it. Their venturing under these circumstances to attack him at all was a striking illustration of the growing confidence inspired by glibness and the habit of being listened to by large audiences. If it were not that the public is gaining steadily in its appreciation of thoroughness and accuracy, we should before long witness a state of things in which anybody who for any reason could gather a crowd about him, would pretend and often believe that it was only want of time which prevented him from disposing of the most famous unsolved problems of the higher mathematics.

Another remarkable and repulsive feature of the controversy has been the theory, on which most of Mr. Wells's opponents act and talk, that there is something sacred about the theory of protection, and that any person who attacks it, or even brings to light facts which are likely to weaken its hold on the popular mind, must be a bad man, and ought to have his influence destroyed, like that of a gambler or libertine, not simply by argument but by social persecution, or any other weapons within reach. One Pennsylvanian sage, or saint, was so shocked by Mr. Wells's conclusions, that he gravely, and even with much show of pious wrath, sought to have the wretch's salary stopped in the House, so that the legislature of "our common country" might not be responsible for the diffusion of his pestiferous utterances. Now, protectionists may as well make up their minds that neither their opponents nor the public at large will submit to this kind of assumption. It was tried in the slavery agitation, and failed. There was hardly a defender of the institution in the height of its prosperity who did not take refuge behind the Bible, or the marriage relation. It was tried, too, in the reconstruction process, and failed; and in the impeachment process, and failed. Hardly a question of importance comes up in politics, that one side or other does not entrench itself behind religion or humanity or "eternal justice," and proclaim that anybody who assails the position is guilty of sacrilege. But the age for successful performance of this thoroughly profane trick is gone by. Anybody who wants legislation in our day in aid of his schemes, whether his object be his own private aggrandizement, or the regeneration of mankind, must come down into the political arena and maintain his cause, on the same level and with the same weapons as everybody else. We have no privileged opinions in politics any more than privileged classes in society. All opinions and theories are assailable; nay, if anybody knows any reason for thinking that a dominant policy, no matter in what department of public affairs, is injurious, he is bound to declare it.

The pretence to which the protectionists seem to cling, that protection is amongst the settled questions—for some such pretence must be at the bottom of the personal abuse with which they assail their opponents—is a pure delusion. Whether fortunately or unfortunately, there is no question at this moment occupying the attention of the civilized world more unsettled, or more likely to be settled against the advocates of the doctrine. There is no country in which any changes which are taking place in the mode of raising revenue are not made in the direction of freedom of trade. In fact, protection is getting to be looked on everywhere as an ancient abuse, like Church establishments and vendible offices and entails, to be borne with, if at all, out of regard to vested interests and settled habits, but not to be borne with very long under any circumstances. If anybody says that this is a dreadful state of things, he raises a question of opinion; what we here assert is a fact which admits of no denial, and it becomes the adherents of a decaying faith, no matter how respectable, to be, above all things, meek and modest. It is only on the preachers of new and spreading creeds that intolerance and virulence sit well.

Another circumstance which makes it peculiarly improper for protectionist advocates to impute corrupt motives to their adversaries is, that there is no body of men so open to the same imputation. One of the great objects and great results of protection is the creation of monopolies—the closing of the markets to all but a few persons. It is, therefore, one of the peculiarities of a protectionist policy that, however much good, even from the stand-point of its friends, it may do the many, there are always a few who benefit by it immensely, and whose fortunes depend on its maintenance. The English manufacturer

is, no doubt, interested in having the American markets opened to him, but so are all other manufacturers on the globe. Anybody who entered our ports with goods to sell, under a free-trade policy, would enter them in competition with the whole human race. Under a protectionist policy, on the other hand, a few dozen manufacturers here—a very small list would contain them—do make great profits which they would lose if the ports were opened. Even if we grant what they will claim, that in making these profits they greatly benefit the country, it is none the less true that the reduction of the tariff would instantly put a stop to them. Their personal selfish interest, therefore, apart from their patriotic interest, in the maintenance of the tariff is immense. They have a reason for bribing people to speak and write in favor of its maintenance, such as nobody has in bribing people to write and speak against it. Nay, many of the tariff writers and speakers—Mr. Carey for one, who degraded himself by his imputation on Mr. Wells—are themselves manufacturers, and interested in protected industry of some kind; and, in preaching protection, are aiding in the increase of their own profits just as much as if they were keeping their books, and superintending their workmen. Now, we do not say they are all actuated by selfish motives in defending the tariff. We do not say that Mr. Kelley gets so much a column for the long discourses in defence of native industry with which he fills the *Congressional Globe*, or Mr. Greeley for the luminous expositions of protectionist doctrine which he contributes to the *Tribune*; but we do say, that a man may believe that they do, and say that he believes it, without showing himself to be a very uncharitable or very suspicious man, or a man very ignorant of human nature. Any one who would say so might consider himself a kindly, tolerant, and pure-minded person compared with the gentlemen who have deduced Mr. Wells's baseness from his writing things which they happen not to like, or find inconvenient. Unfortunately, too, for the Greeleys, and Careys, and Kelleys, the list of preachers of free trade—a list on which such names as Turgot, and Adam Smith, and Cobden, and Bright, and Chevalier, and Bastiat, and Garnier are inscribed, is one on which no man need fear to see his name, because there is no man whom association with such men would not honor; and this not simply on account of their intellectual achievements—though these certainly none of Mr. Wells's assailants can very well pretend to despise—but because for purity of character and devotion to the interests of mankind it would be very difficult for any school of economy or philosophy to produce their match.

THE LYCEUM LECTURE.

In a recently published biography we may read that on a certain June morning in 1864, after having met the late Mr. Halleck in one of our New York streets, the late Mr. Willis went home and, according to his custom, utilized the notable thing of his day's experience by addressing to his younger associate in the management of the *Home Journal* one of his well-known editorial letters. In this instance his performance contained an expression of the writer's keen regret that "the author of 'Marco Bozarris'" had never seen fit to deliver lyceum lectures. "With such advantages of physiognomy and manner, so winning a look and voice, how is it," Mr. Willis enquires of Mr. Phillips, "that Fitz-Greene Halleck has never let himself be known to audiences?" . . . "Halleck's genial countenance," he goes on to say—in those days everybody and everything was genial—"and still more the full and genial cadences of his voice, suited him especially for a lecturer. What a pity that so admirably formed a creature should die without the eye and ear homage for which nature gifted him!"

From these remarks of Mr. Willis, who lived when lyceum associations were in fulness of glory, it is easy to deduce one or two theories of the aim and end of the "courses of lectures" which constitute an American institution, and easy to see something of the reason of their popularity. One cause, then, of their existence would seem to be, that by means of them the general public gets opportunity to gratify a natural curiosity as to the personal appearance of the men and women who have in one way and another attracted its attention. "The author of 'Marco Bozarris'" no doubt could once have drawn a "paying house" in every town to which the "Academic Speakers" and "First Readers" had introduced him. And from what is said of the graces of Halleck's manner and the charm of his elocution, his ability to please and amuse, and from what is not said

of his ability to teach anybody anything, we may infer that Mr. Willis was not in the habit of thinking of lyceum lectures as being to any great extent a means of instruction.

As regards that matter, few people, we imagine, ever differed with him. Most people will admit that so far as concerns learning anything, listening to lectures is pretty surely a waste of time. They never come very near to being profitable except when, as in the case of college professors and students, the lecturer talks to hearers who are interested in the subject in which he himself is interested, and all of whom are so nearly alike as regards ability that the speaker need not entertain the lecturer's common fear—the fear that turns most lectures into twaddle or commonplace not far removed from it—the fear that unless he points out things which are beneath the regard of the best part of his audience he must point out things beyond the vision of most of it. And in order to learn much from the lecturing of university professors even, it is necessary we should say, so far as our experience goes, that the hearer should transfer it to paper; it is the lecture in the note-book rather than the oral lecture that is of any service to the student.

But if it has no great claim to respect as a means of instruction, which is what it has usually pretended to be, the "lecture" once had a considerable value and still has some value, in certain parts of the country, as a social instrumentality. The days are not yet wholly gone in which some of our friends in Boston and the immediate vicinity betake themselves now and then of an evening to the Tremont Temple to listen to Mr. Phillips while he makes his instructive political epigrams, or attend at the Lowell Institute or the Music Hall to hear Mr. Emerson, and to absorb, not without a sense of profit and a degree of self-complacency, some small quantity of the transcendental philosophy, taking in (to borrow a hint from Miss Bremer and the Fresh Pond Company) their three or four pounds of ice for the purposes of "aesthetic teas" and other parties, and pleasantly fancying that thus they have something of the eternal snows of Concord; and in the remoter rural districts of the valley of the Mississippi, where schools are scarce and good newspapers and books are few, it is possible that not only the political lecturers, but the others, exert a sensible intellectual influence. We doubt it, however; and incline strongly to the belief that throughout the whole country "the platform" is hopelessly decaying as "the stump" has begun to decay, and like "the stump" tends each year to go further towards the setting sun. When Mr. Emerson goes West again, if he ever goes again on a lecturing tour, it is very likely that he will have to go further than before to find the enterprising committee who shall secure him a full attendance by advertising the tickets of admission as good also for a subsequent dance in the hall and "an elegant collation."

In those parts of the country where the social means and appliances are few, where the young people of the two sexes are debarred from seeing each other as often as they would like, our lecture system is pretty sure to flourish. In the Atlantic States, or at any rate on the seaboard, and in all the large cities of the East and West alike, a thousand ways are open for the meeting of that part of "society" for whose sake it is after all that "society" exists. In the smaller Eastern towns there is the stated preaching of the word several times in every seven days; and nobody who hears the continual outcries about the overdressiness of women in church will deny that it is not always nor wholly for worship that congregations gather themselves together. We hear of a young lady in Connecticut who, in feeling it to be improper that she should dance during Lent, rigorously denied herself that enjoyment; she was saved from spiritual pride, however, by the discovery one day that she was "engaged" for evening services for three weeks ahead. So, too, it is remarked of the young ladies of St. Louis, that when they have made a "retreat" and come home again under prohibition to dance round dances, they are observed to be exemplary in the matter of taking constitutionals, and that their patronage of concerts is of a kind to gratify managers. Then in the East there is the singing-school of the villages, and the choir meeting; while in the larger towns the theatre is no longer under ban, nor are balls looked on with anything like the horror that they used to excite, even in the near neighborhood of Boston, so short a time ago as ten years. The chances for "Edward and Almira" to blush in each other's presence are indefinitely greater this side of the Alleghenies than those young persons would find them in the West. In that region, then, the lyceum lecture is eking out the services rendered to the estate of matrimony by the itinerant preacher, the rare troop of actors, the occasional violinist or "minstrel." Some of the young bachelors form the committee of arrangements; and all the other young bachelors take "season tickets;" lecturers are engaged, some of whom, as we know, are men of the most brilliant talents and the

most varied attainments, but some of whom also, it is much to be feared, are heard not so much for their powers and acquisitions as because the young ladies and gentlemen wish to do a certain amount of talking with each other, as well as to listen to some part of what the authorized speaker of the evening may be saying.

There comes, however, every now and then from that region—there has come, in fact, within a week—a dismal wall of committees over the winter's receipts, which show that even the bodily presence of the best-looking and most winning and most famous lecturers on the list has failed in many instances to draw full and paying houses, and has left the young bachelors and the "live men" of many rising communities agonizing over a deficit of greater or less dimensions which they will probably have to meet out of their own pockets. No confidence, however great, in the lyceum lecture as an instrument of culture can of course very long survive the frequent recurrence of a pecuniary loss, and what renders the prospects of the institution all the more gloomy is that a certain portion of the Western press, led by that cynical sheet the *Chicago Tribune*, now regularly about this time of the year counsels the committees to cut down their list almost to nothing; in fact—we hate to write it—to give no more invitations to the rising beauties of the platform, and confine themselves to a very few men of established brains and reputation who are sure to have something to say. With this cold, calculating view of a tender and delicate subject, we need hardly say we have ourselves little sympathy; but as lecturers require pay and as somebody has to supply it, we suppose that to the business point of view even the most spiritual of us must come at last. To any committee, therefore, which finds itself seated on the cold "hard pan," as the miners say of a dead loss, owing to misplaced confidence in the power of "advantages of physiognomy and manner," we would advise, in making arrangements next year, to restrict their invitations to specialists of established reputation, men who either have completely mastered some subject and speak on it with generally recognized authority, or men who are gifted with great powers of statement and apply them successfully to a particular class of subjects; and to eschew the simple rhetorician who is ready to treat any theme at a hundred dollars an hour. The body to which he belongs is one which is growing prodigiously, and its influence, whether exerted through the platform, the magazine, or the wholesome and independent family paper, is producing the worst effects on the tender and susceptible minds of both Edward and Almira. His personal charms, instead of heightening his attractions, ought to put a prudent committee on its guard against him, and cause it to question itself straitly as to its motives in asking him to hold forth.

ENGLAND.

LONDON, March 19, 1869.

If I were to write upon the topics which most excite the British mind at the present moment, I should hesitate between the two questions of the Irish Church debate and the University boat-race. The latter will, I presume, scarcely retain much interest on the other side of the Atlantic. I will, therefore, spare you any enquiry into the causes which have led to nine consecutive defeats of Cambridge by Oxford, or into the present state and prospects of the art of rowing in this country. I will merely note in passing that the extraordinary interest which the race now excites is a characteristic and regular phenomenon. Every London cabman ties a bit of light or dark blue ribbon to his whip, according to the direction of his sympathies; the little ragged boys in the streets shout, "Oxford and Cambridge for ever!" and the whole of London turns out to see the contest in crowds nearly if not quite equal to those which attend the more renowned celebration of the Derby. I will turn, however, to the official subject of discussion. The grand debate on the second reading of Mr. Gladstone's bill began last night. These debates are amongst the most wearisome of proceedings to those who attend, or to the few who do an Englishman's duty by plodding through the reports in the next morning's *Times*. So many of the inferior tribe of orators are anxious to speak for the benefit of their constituents, that the leading speakers are swamped in a mass of inferior eloquence, and the leading speakers themselves are apt to be dull when they attempt to make what are called by their admiring critics "luminous and exhaustive" statements of the arguments. Last night, for example, Mr. Disraeli opened the debate in a two-hours speech, and the remainder of the evening was devoted to the efforts of the members whom no one cares to hear, and to a short official reply from Mr. Chichester Fortescue. There is often ten times as much interest in a debate which springs up unexpectedly, and gives occasion for a few of the best speakers

to go in and strike a few rapid and telling blows, as in the prolix and dismal discussions in which men go prepared in cold blood to listen to the delivery of spoken pamphlets. Nothing, of course, was said, and I may safely anticipate that nothing will be said in Parliament or elsewhere calculated to throw the smallest light upon the subject. Everybody knows all about it and has long ago made up his mind, and this parade of oratory amounts to little more than a kind of conventional ceremony for doing honor to the importance of the subject. Mr. Disraeli seems to have been more than usually brilliant; he began by some of the flaming generalities in which he takes so much delight, but afterwards got on to his own strong ground of sarcasm, and made a very satisfactory onslaught upon his opponents. He got well home and drew first blood in thoroughly workmanlike style. But, to say the truth, the punishment which he administered to the ministry was of just as little importance as the Brummagem philosophy with which he prefaced his speech. It will make them angry, but it will not change a vote or throw a new beam of light on the subject. When he expatiated on the importance of religion and the fact that governments ought to be guided by religious considerations, he was as much and as little to the point as when he called the measure confiscation, and insisted that the state was a trustee for the Protestant Church and was stealing the trust-money, or as when in conclusion he taunted Mr. Gladstone with the inevitable reaction upon the Church of England. Perhaps his best point, and it is one which is really of some importance, is that the effect of the bill will be to hand over a large share of the spoils of the Church to the landlords. Mr. Gladstone proposes to spend the proceeds upon lunatic asylums and secular institutions. Now it is admitted that the effect of this will be in some degree to reduce the county cess, which is paid in the first instance by the tenants but which must ultimately fall more or less on the rents. Take off the burden and the landlords will be able to raise their terms. We should be very sorry to hand over the Church property to the landlords, though it may be doubted whether this particular argument will tell very strongly upon the landlords themselves. Mr. Disraeli, indeed, tried to prove that the effect of confiscation would be to raise further questions as to the security of landlords. Plunder the Church, he said, and you encourage other people to plunder you. If the disendowment of the Church leads to a serious consideration of the land question, I, for one, shall be sincerely gratified; but it is decidedly a blot in the measure that one of its first effects will be to offer what may be delicately called a pecuniary inducement to the landlord interest.

Be this how it may, the measure is in the main well designed, and especially for the great purpose of all, namely, to pass. No one can doubt that it will go through the House of Commons by very large majorities, and the only question is as to its fate in the House of Lords. Whether that body, which has lately been giving signs of impatience under its growing insignificance, will venture to assert itself by throwing out the bill, is a matter on which speculation is premature. Should it venture to do so the result will probably be the raising of some deeper questions than are just now in the field of politics. I confess that the one wish which I can distinctly form is, that the bill may be passed in some shape, so that Parliament may have a fair chance of devoting itself to the incomparably more important matters for which the road is now hopelessly blocked. To mention only one, and that one of secondary interest, a measure has been lately introduced for regulating the endowed schools of England. These schools enjoy a revenue considerably larger than that which will be set free by the disendowment of the Irish Church, but they have been allowed to fall into that helpless state of muddle which is only too characteristic of English institutions at the present moment. The endowments are wasted, misapplied, and put to actually prejudicial uses of every kind. To put them right would be the first step towards providing the country with that of which it is most urgently in need, a good system of secondary education. No one can put them right but Parliament, and Parliament is so taken up with squabbling over a question upon which every sensible man in the country has long ago made up its mind, that we have no hopes of anything but a mutilated and, at best, preparatory measure. Other matters of still more importance, such as the poor-laws, are left on one side altogether; and it is not surprising that some enthusiasts are getting rather disgusted with our system of parliamentary government. The House of Commons insists upon being omniscient and omnipotent; to this one cannot reasonably object; but it ought to hit upon some mode of using its power and its knowledge towards doing business instead of frittering away time of the utmost value on party struggles. That the Irish Church should be put down is right enough; but it is grievous that so much labor should be spent on mere abolition of old grievances, when there is such urgent need of measures for reconstruction. Some greater

impulse is required than appears to have come from our advance up to the present time in a democratic direction.

I am, to some extent, talking the language of a school of thought, which, if I am not mistaken, will have great influence on our future politics, and I would call your attention to it the more, because, though generally treated with ridicule, I am convinced that it really deserves serious notice. The followers of Comte, to whom I refer, are a very small and a much abused body. There are perhaps not more than half a dozen genuine disciples prepared to go all lengths; and it has been said that half of them are suspected of heresy. This statement, however, gives a very inadequate impression of the extent to which their characteristic theories have leavened the thoughts of the rising generation. Small as the body may be, it includes men of great ability, of remarkable powers of expression, and, what is most important under present circumstances, of profound faith in the truth and importance of their own opinions. The organ through which they chiefly preach to the world is the *Fortnightly Review*, a journal on the model of the *Revue des Deux Mondes*, which for a long time led a very precarious existence, and has been compelled to suspend half its issues and to be content with a monthly appearance. The February number, however, ran through five editions; and as a symptom of the present currents of opinion it is worth noticing the articles which gave it so large a circulation. They were chiefly two: one was by Prof. Huxley, in which he started from physiological grounds to prove certain conclusions which would generally be called materialist. It is true that he entirely repudiates the name and saves himself from the supposed consequences of his theory by a remarkable argument into which I have not space to enter. It is enough to say that the general bearing of the essay was to prove that all the phenomena of life would in no remote future be explained by the same scientific principles which we apply in the case of chemistry or astronomy. He went rather out of his way to deny any sympathy with Comte as a scientific authority, but he would obviously agree with Comte in putting theology and metaphysics altogether out of consideration. The other article was a very clever parallel drawn by Professor Beesley, one of the thoroughgoing Comtists, between the French statesmen who preceded the revolution of 1789, on the one hand, and Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Disraeli on the other. There is a still more remarkable article by Professor Beesley in the current number, in which he advocates the positivist theory as to the future of the working-classes, expresses his sympathy with trades unionism, and declares that the solution of our present difficulties is to be found in that curious variety of democratic despotism which forms the Positivist's ideal. Of the merits of these opinions I have not room to speak, but it is worth notice that opinions of this nature should be currently expressed, and meet, if not with general approbation, at least with very widely spread sympathy. It proves, I may say, this, that the men who at present exercise a very powerful—perhaps the most powerful—influence on the able minds of the rising generation, may be divided into two classes: first, the men of science who utterly repudiate all theology, and laugh at the pretensions of all existing religious systems to any authority in the world of thought; secondly, the Comtists, who proceed to build up on the same foundation a new theory of society, the partial realization of which would involve a complete revolution of the whole established order of things; the formation of a new spiritual power; the destruction of the political influence of the present governing classes, and the advent to authority of an entirely new class. It may be said that this second class, at least, are of a wild and visionary order and have few thorough-going supporters; but the influence of a very earnest sect with a definite object and a fanatical faith is not to be measured by the number of its open adherents. Its direct influence is considerable and increasing, and, as a symptom of widely spread discontent with all official creeds, it is a matter of really great importance. It is rather as symptomatic of some future change than as indicating the direction which changes are likely to assume, that I think it is worthy of serious notice. It may suggest some serious reflection when we may fairly say that the cultivated young men are divisible into three classes: those whose creed is simply retrograde, those whose creed is simply negative, and those whose creed is radically revolutionary; yet I think this is a tolerably exhaustive account of the opinions prevalent amongst the rising generation.

In presence of the wider questions that are daily coming to the surface, I look upon the Irish Church measure, "gigantic" as Mr. Gladstone is pleased to call it, as important chiefly because it will in all probability lead to agitations of a far more serious kind; one of those questions is treated with great completeness in a report just issued by the Commission on Trades Unions, of which I hope to give you some account in my next letter.

Correspondence.

VIRGINIAN PEDIGREES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: Ordinarily genealogies are exempt from criticism in the daily journals. The public is not interested in the question as to whether Brown claims his rightful great-grandfather or not. In a few cases, however, where families have for generations acted a prominent part in the history of their country, the public has a right, and feels a desire to know something of their history. This investigation becomes the more necessary when the supposed existence of a body of families with far-reaching pedigrees is made an important element in the settlement of great political and social questions. During the late rebellion the claim of Virginian families to represent ancient families of the English gentry was undoubtedly an important aid to the Southerners in obtaining British sympathy and assistance.

Under these circumstances and in the case of so prominent a Virginian family as that of General Robert E. Lee, there can be no impropriety in reviewing a genealogy published and sold in New York. A Mr. Edward C. Mead has prepared a Lee Genealogy which has been published in a very handsome form by Richardson & Co. of New York.

The author undertakes to show that Colonel Richard Lee, the emigrant founder of the family in Virginia, belonged to a family of the English gentry, resident at Cotton in Shropshire. We are constrained to say that he has not produced the slightest evidence of any such affiliation, and that, so far as this book goes, the famous Lee family possesses no pedigree beyond that which the descendants of all the early colonists possess, the record of the family after it became American.

As Mr. Mead's book shows a lack of familiarity with genealogy and heraldry, it may not be unfair to point out that the Richard Lee, son of Launcelot Lee, of Cotton in Shropshire, whom he identifies with the emigrant, could not have been the Virginian. The extract from the Herald's Visitation of 1683, which is the foundation of his book, seems fatal to the identification. In that document Richard Lee is called of the parish of St. Olave's in London, and his wife, Elizabeth, is recorded as alive; at least there is no mention of her death. The age of that Richard was not over forty-two years. It so happens that Colonel Richard Lee, of Virginia, made his will in the same year, in which he mentions his wife Anna and eight children, and the extracts printed give us no reason to doubt that she was the mother of them. It is highly improbable that the Herald's Visitation would have omitted such important items in the description of Richard of London as the fact of his living in Virginia, his being a Colonel, his having a second wife and eight children, if these applied to him.

For these reasons, if others were wanting, it is evident that more proof than a coincidence of names is necessary. There may be other proofs accessible to Mr. Mead, but at present the weight of evidence seems against the affiliation. If the family here had used the arms of the Lees of Cotton on their seals, their silver, or their tombstones, such evidence might go far to substantiate the claim.

The earliest authority cited by Mr. Mead is a paper of a date later than 1770, drawn up by William Lee, of London, a great-grandson of the emigrant. It is possible that the copy of the Herald's Visitation was also obtained by him; certainly, as the copy was made in 1750, it is of no particular authority.

I have felt the less reluctance to call for some evidence in support of the pedigree as I believe I can indicate the true origin of the family. The most interesting question is this: Are Virginian pedigrees in general based upon such documents as genealogists of the present day esteem indispensable, or are they largely composed of unsubstantiated traditions? The Washington pedigree, after being accepted for over half a century, has totally disappeared under the scrutiny of competent critics. I do not intend to place this Lee Genealogy in the same class, but as it stands, it certainly requires much more support than this book affords.

W. H. W.

QUANTITY IN VACCINATION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: As you have a very good article published last week on the efficacy of vaccination, will you allow me to touch upon one very important point omitted in that article? It is in regard to the amount of vaccination necessary to afford almost complete protection against small-pox.

In the article "Vaccination," in "Reynolds's System of Medicine" (Vol. I, page 496,) Dr. Edward Cator Seaton (after stating Jenner's views)

says, "Observations made since Jenner's day, with remarkable care and ability, and on a scale which gets rid of all sources of fallacy, by Mr. Marston, of the Small-Pox Hospital, have conclusively established that, for thoroughly infecting the constitution, a certain amount of local affection is as necessary as a perfect character of vaccine vesicle. We must therefore so far extend the words 'due and efficient' performance of vaccination, as to make it include amount as well as quality of vaccine influence."

He cites statistics to show how much vaccination protects from future attacks of small-pox, and also the following table to show that the degree of modifying power is in exact ratio of the excellence and completeness of the vaccination as shown by the cicatrices: in other words, that it is directly as the amount of vaccine marking and as the character of the marks.

Classification of patients affected with small-pox.	No. of deaths per cent. in each class respectively.
1. Unvaccinated.....	37.
2. Stated to have been vaccinated, but having no cicatrix.....	33.57.
3. Vaccinated, a. having one vaccine cicatrix.....	7.73.
b. " two " cicatrices.....	4.70.
c. " three " ".....	1.95.
d. " 4 or more " ".....	.55.

And at the present time when most physicians are content to raise one, and at most two, vesicles, it is well to note his remark that "No practitioner will have done his duty in any case in which he is called upon to vaccinate, unless, besides all requisite precautions with regard to the genuineness of the lymph employed and the means of insuring success, he has also taken care to vaccinate sufficiently, i.e., to produce, so far as in him lies, four or five good-sized vesicles, such as result from separate punctures, or if vaccinating otherwise than by separate puncture, to produce equivalent local results."

The same rule will hold true in regard to scars left on those who get small-pox as we stated above. Dr. Seaton quotes several examples to show the greater freedom from the disease, small-pox, by the practice of re-vaccination. In regard to the age of vaccination, allow me to say, while three months is the best age, other things being equal, as a child of two months is not too young to die with small-pox, so he is not too young to be vaccinated; and I have often vaccinated babies nine days old, without waking them from sleep, and they seem to bear it much better than when older. I would approve a re-vaccination at puberty, and again if desired.

S. G. C.

MARCH 30, 1869.

MR. AUERBACH'S ENGAGEMENTS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: Mr. Bancroft, the historian, has been making a little "history" for the book-publishing firm of Roberts Brothers, which we feel called upon to explain and correct, it not being necessary in this instance to entail that duty upon posterity.

The following communication was printed in the *Nation* of April 1:

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
BERLIN, December 10, 1868.

Rev. W. R. Alger, of Boston, proposed to Mr. Auerbach to take Roberts Brothers for his publishers. They, without Mr. Auerbach's consent or knowledge, published one of his works and filled the country with advertisements of their intention to publish the next which he should bring out. Messrs. Roberts Brothers then made Mr. Auerbach an offer, which he refused to accept without a modification. They, on their part, refuse to accede to his proposal. So that matter stands. Messrs. Roberts Brothers have received from Mr. Auerbach neither manuscript nor proofs of his new work, nor have they from him authority to advertise or to publish.

GEO. BANCROFT.

If Mr. Bancroft had said that Mr. Auerbach first "proposed" to Mr. Alger to secure him a publisher, he would have stated the exact truth.

It is true that we "published one of Mr. Auerbach's works" ("On the Heights") "without his consent"—it was not necessary that we should have it—but not "without his knowledge," as we notified him of our intention to do so, accompanied with a voluntary proffer of a portion of the profits.

It is quite true, also, and we thank the United States Minister Resident at the Court of Berlin for the compliment, that we "filled the country with advertisements," by means of which, to quote from Mr. Bayard Taylor, "Berthold Auerbach was first introduced to the knowledge of most American readers" and his name made famous from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Previous to our bringing out "On the Heights," which book had been in the portfolio of several publishers for publication but rejected, Mr. Auerbach was slumbering in the security of a "Tauchnitz" edition, and for waking him up, clothing him in an American dress, and aiding him to become famous—this is an "outrage" for which we voluntarily offered him payment.

We have never "made" Mr. Auerbach a direct "offer," but modified the original proposition made by Mr. Alger; a proposition we had good reason to suppose he accepted and was bound by, considering that he offered no objection to it for a period of six months, with a full knowledge of all our efforts during that time to advance his interest.

We may, in conclusion, fitly express our surprise that the distinguished historian should have given his name to such a communication, intended for publication; indeed, as humble citizens of the Republic and with due deference to his greatness, we question the propriety of the act. He is the servant of a people which has persistently denied to foreigners any literary rights. The right to republish foreign books is common to all, while a translation from a foreign language is recognized by law as an original work and granted the same protection. Our offence, for we consider ourselves arraigned by Mr. Bancroft, is in publishing an original translation, procured and paid for by us, for which we have the sanction of the United States by its official seal. Why, then, should a Minister Resident of the United States lend the weight of his name and the sanction of a diplomatic post, which he holds for the public good, for the obvious purpose of benefiting other parties by injuring American citizens engaged in what the law deems not only lawful but commendable pursuits?

Your obedient servants,

ROBERTS BROTHERS.

Boston, April 2, 1869.

DOCTOR'S ENGLISH.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: In your issue of April 1, I notice that you very justly reprobate the execrable valedictory address delivered at the recent commencement exercises of the Medical Department of Georgetown College. The person who produced so extraordinary a composition did not "graduate with honors" as you assume, but, owing to a local custom, was elected by the graduating class to represent them. Under such an arrangement, scholarship and good taste have very little to do with the selection of our valedictorians.

The proper use of the English language as a qualification for graduation is practically unknown in nearly all our medical institutions; Georgetown College in this respect is no worse than any other. Every year scores of young gentlemen are sent out into the world, armed with medical diplomas, and licensed to heal mankind, butcher their mother tongue, and torment every sensible

ALUMNUS.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 3, 1869.

Notes.

LITERARY.

MESSRS. HURD & HOUGHTON announce "The Velocipede: its history, varieties, and practice, with illustrations."—Messrs. John Wiley & Son will publish "Elements of Machine Construction and Drawing on a New Plan," by Prof. S. E. Warren, of Troy Polytechnic Institute; and a thoroughly revised edition of "Downing's Fruits and Fruit Trees of America," which has the repute of being the very best work of its kind.—Messrs. J. B. Lippincott & Co. have nearly or quite ready a reprint which will give pleasure to the many hundred readers who, having made the acquaintance of Sir Samuel Baker in his two great works on the Nile and its tributaries, will like to get a glimpse of the preparation which made him so accomplished an explorer. We refer to his early work, entitled "Rifle and Hound in Ceylon."—Dr. Daniel G. Brinton is preparing a "Guide book for Florida and the South," his competency for which will not be doubted by those familiar with his scientific researches in that interesting peninsula.—The Rev. Gilbert Haven publishes, through Messrs. Lee & Shepard, his discourses, lectures, and speeches on slavery and the war, calling them "National Sermons." The same house intend issuing Mr. N. S. Dearborn's "Scrolls, Monograms, Ornaments, Crests, etc.," for the use of artists, designers, and art workmen; also, a new series of children's books by Mrs. Caroline H. Dall, linked together as "Patty Gray's Journey to the Cotton Islands." The first takes the little girl "From Boston to Baltimore," in either of which cities Mrs. Dall is quite at home.

—Messrs. J. B. Lippincott & Co. have replied to the representations of the Messrs. Harper, as set forth in the *Nation* of March 25. In regard to the main issue—the republication of Dilke's "Greater Britain"—they repeat in substance the charge already brought through the *Athenæum*: that the Harpers, after a double notification, through the *Publishers' Circu-*

lar in May, 1868, and by letter "immediately on their own announcement," still persisted in reprinting the book in question. They repeat, also, their companion complaint that the same house had previously reprinted Trollope's "North America," although duly informed "through a personal interview" of Messrs. Lippincott's arrangements with the author; and add as a still later grievance their reproduction of Hepworth Dixon's "Her Majesty's Tower" "in an inferior style, at a nominal price." The Trollope, it appears, is at the bottom of the difference between the two houses, for Messrs. Lippincott & Co. now declare that they were bent on making a reprisal for the discourtesy of the Harpers in regard to it. With this in view, they say, they selected "Cast Up by the Sea," which the Harpers had announced—on the strength of sheets purchased in advance, as was supposed by the Philadelphia house. The whole book had been made in their establishment, including the wood-cuts, and was nearly ready when the box containing "ten electrotypes of illustrations, without letterings, for 'Cast Up by the Sea,'" arrived, by mistake, from Macmillan & Co. This was on the 1st of January, not in December, as alleged by the Harpers. On the 8th the book was published by the Lippincotts, who waited till the 13th before writing for an explanation to Macmillan & Co.—on the ground that they surmised a break in the arrangement with the Harpers; and of course being not unwilling to have it so, or to remain in doubt. When word came as to the proper destination of the plates, the Harpers were informed they could have them on receipt of the expenses already incurred. The Bulwer difficulty is disposed of by denying that the "courtesy of the trade attaches to a series of books reprinted by two houses"—viz., Messrs. Phillips, Sampson & Co. (now defunct) and the Harpers, and extending as far back as 1828. A review of the Dickens controversy would probably throw light on this last question. Messrs. Lippincott & Co. conclude by an urgent appeal for an international copyright law; in which both we and, we hope, most other readers of this disagreeable controversy are glad to join.

—No one can read without instruction and delight the admirable "Memoir of Jared Sparks, LL.D.," by Rev. George E. Ellis, which formed a part of the proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society in May, 1868, and which has just been elegantly printed by John Wilson & Son, of Cambridge. Dr. Ellis was a co-laborer of Mr. Sparks in his "Library of American Biography," and in many other ways was intimately associated with him, as a friend and as a scholar of history. He was therefore well qualified to prepare this memoir, which, having had the benefit of access to the private papers and journal of Mr. Sparks, will serve the public at large all the purposes of a biography, containing in the compass of one hundred octavo pages all the information necessary to a just conception of the character of the deceased, his life-work, and the value of his example both as a man and as a historian. That example it would be difficult to overrate on either side; and certainly as a historian, in diligent application and research, sound judgment, delicate conscientiousness, absolute fidelity, and productive industry, he has had no peer among American writers. Dr. Ellis makes the striking remark that "the most expressive tribute of confidence and deference paid to Dr. Sparks for the qualities just ascribed to him, is found in the fact that might be richly illustrated here if space allowed, that in some sharp controversies and personal disputes between later historians and biographers and those who, as representatives of public men, have challenged them for alleged misrepresentations of their ancestors, Dr. Sparks has in every case been recognized as an impartial arbiter. I have read a pile of pamphlets touching the deserts and fame of Generals Green, Sullivan, and Schuyler, and President Reed, and others, as perilled by some judgment of Mr. Bancroft's, brought under question by grandsons and friends of champions, and in every case have noted how valuable to either side is the judicial estimate anticipated in the pages of the editor of *Washington*." In other fields, too, Mr. Sparks rendered great services: as pastor of a church in Baltimore, and afterwards as professor and president at Harvard College. At a period of intense theological controversy between the followers of Channing, of whom he was one, and the evangelical denominations, his contributions to the literature of the subject were models of temperateness and open dealing, of calm reasoning and earnest devotion to the truth. As president of Harvard, he greatly simplified the office, and impressed upon the college the enlarged views which he held with regard to the functions and proper management of such an institution.

—The originality of Mr. Robertson's comedy "School," now performing at Wallack's and in other cities, after first appearing on the London stage, has been stoutly affirmed by the successful author and his friends. The most that they will allow is, that merely the skeleton of the plot has been borrowed from Roderich Benedix's play, "Aschenbroedel" (Cinder-

ella.) Any one, however, who examines the text of the latter in the Leipzig edition will perceive that Mr. Robertson is much too modest in his acknowledgments, and that the differences between his play and the German original are due less to him than to the stage carpenter and scene painter. He has, with a few "reductions," followed closely the action-characters, incidents, and (in most of the scenes literally) the dialogue of "Aechenbroedel." He introduces no new character, but leaves out one—Elfrida's (Bella's) foster-mother. Other variations we have noted are these: (1) The bull story and the lost slipper in the first act bring about the meeting of hero and heroine in a different but not more interesting manner than in the original; (2) a more elaborate flirtation between the two "second" characters; (3) Beaufoy's uncle an old fop, instead of the old fogey of the original; (4) the scenery of the first act is "on the glade" instead of in the school-room, and in the last act the "grounds of the seminary" are substituted for Lord Beaufoy's castle; the "realization" having taken place between the third and fourth acts (which causes a corresponding change in the dialogue of the latter); (5) the teacher's bombardment with books by the girls is original with Mr. Robertson; (6) a few witticisms and remarks by Mr. Robertson, mixed *à la salade italienne* with those scenes which he has wholly appropriated from Mr. Benedix.

—The March *Bulletin* of the Boston Public Library mentions the acquisition by that institution, through the liberality of Mr. Thomas G. Appleton, of "the excellent collection of engravings which formed part of the estate of the late Cardinal Tosti. . . . It is understood to contain 10,000 plates, many of them of the rarest kind—600 of them handsomely framed, the rest in richly bound volumes. They are expected to arrive during the spring, along with an antique bust presented by the representative and heir of the Cardinal. As a reinforcement of the valuable collection in the Harvard College Library they will provide the Bostonians with a rich store of material in this branch of art. The use of the library is said to be increasing in a remarkable ratio. In February last, 4,694 books were issued from the upper, or Bates, Hall, and about twice as many from the lower, plus 12,235 periodicals.

—Out and out novel readers will be as much pleased with one of Messrs. Tinsley Brothers' forthcoming books as with anything else that is just now promised by the English publishers. That firm will shortly issue "Breaking a Butterfly; or, Blanch Ellerslie's Ending," which is by no less a person than Mr. George Lawrence who sired "Guy Livingston" and "Maurice Dering." Nothing else of much interest seems to be doing at this moment in English fiction; but we must mention the fact that "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland," Mr. Lewis Carroll's most admirable book for children—only the children care little or nothing for it, and it is to grown people that it is so charming—has been translated into German, with the design of making it a lesson-book for students of that language, and a story-book for the young German folk. In theological and religious literature, first in importance is a translation of Professor Ewald's "Prophet Isaiah." Next come two volumes of "Sermons Preached in a Religious House," by that remarkably versatile, able, industrious Anglo-Catholic, Dr. John Mason Neale, who died at forty odd years of age, after having done more, and done it better, in history, poetry, controversy, and other branches of literature, than is ordinarily accomplished by two good writers in the course of four longer lives. A third edition is published of the work by the Lord Chancellor (Lord Hatherley, Sir W. Page Wood), entitled "The Continuity of Scripture as declared by the Testimony of Our Lord, and of the Evangelists and Apostles." It is a work of which its author says that he wrote it to strengthen others as he himself had been strengthened by a comparison of scripture with scripture. In poetry the Breitmann ballads seem to be having better success than anything else. Mr. Trübner announces "Hans Breitmann's Christmas," and "Hans Breitmann as a Politician," which, with "Hans Breitmann's Poetry," make three volumes, each accompanied by an introduction and a glossary. An edition copiously illustrated with etchings by Miss Anna M. Lea is promised. "A very clever and cutting pasquinade on Critics" is the description given of Mr. A. E. Hawkins's poem "The World, the Press, and its Critics,"—the two latter being topics which poets leave alone. Still another new volume of poetical selections is to be made by Emma, Lady Wood, who has chosen the title of "Leaves from the Poets' Laurels." In History and Biography nothing very noticeable presents itself. Mr. Motley's "United Netherlands" goes into a new edition. Another volume, covering the two years from 1595 to 1597, of the "Calendar of State Papers" is published. Mr. Norman MacColl is the author of a prize essay entitled "The Great Sceptics, from Pyrrho to Sextus," which makes a thin volume of 118 pages. Lord St. Leonard is the author of a work which will very likely prove entertain-

ing and instructive reading, it is "Misrepresentations in Campbell's Lives of Brougham and Lyndhurst, corrected by St. Leonard." We hardly know whether or not we ought to place among books relating to Science and Art a "Domestic Edition" of the sumptuous "Royal Cookery Book," written by M. Jules Gouffé, who is the chef-de-cuisine of the Paris Jockey Club, and translated by his equally, or even more renowned brother M. Alphonse Gouffé, who is Head Pastry Cook to her Majesty the Queen. We feel the same doubt as regards another work—Mrs. Georgiana Hill's treatise on the art of "How to Stew, Hash, and Curry Cold Meat in a hundred different ways." This is a little sixpenny book, and housekeepers wanting it may get it for twenty-five cents, we suppose, of Messrs. George Routledge & Sons. Of greater nominal importance than either of the above-mentioned aids to good life and good living, and sound thinking, is "The Origin of the Seasons Considered from a Geological Point of View," in which the author, Mr. Samuel Mossman, undertakes to point out and account for the remarkable disparities that exist between the physical geography and natural phenomena of the Northern and Southern hemispheres. A work that the scientific man, if not the general reader, will very probably find superior in point of interest to Mr. Mossman's, is Mr. Cuthbert Collingwood's "Rambles of a Naturalist on the Shores and Waters of the China Sea, with Observations in Natural History during a voyage to China, Formosa, Borneo, and Singapore, in 1866-7." Mrs. Somerville's new work on "Molecular and Microscopic Science" we believe we have mentioned before—it is, however, no harm to mention it again as a work honorable to the learned writer of it, and of special value just now to the reader whom Professor Huxley, or somebody else, has incited to the enquiry as to the bases of life. On Mrs. Somerville's labors rest, it is understood, much of the more popular discourses on this vexed subject. Under the head of Art proper may be placed a new edition, the second, of the Bibliophile Jacob's (the late M. Paul Lacroix) "Les Arts au Moyen Age et à l'Epoque de la Renaissance," illustrated with seventeen full-page chromos and four hundred wood-cuts. Messrs. Sampson Low, Son & Marston, in announcing this second edition, make the promise of important and valuable additions, and of some new and better chromos in place of such as were not perfect in the first edition. Virtuosi, perhaps, rather than students of art will be interested in an enterprise in which Messrs. Trübner & Co. are engaging—that of reissuing the late William Marsden's "Numismata Orientalia Illustrata." We say reissuing; but the new edition will contain no letterpress, but simply the fifty-seven beautifully executed engravings of the Oriental coins which Mr. Marsden so enthusiastically collected, and the copperplate representations of which in his celebrated work were so diligently and vigilantly superintended by himself and his wife that the pictures have a world-wide renown among numismatists. The work has been selling at prohibitive prices, and this edition without letterpress is intended as a means of testing "the predilections of the antiquaries of the present age." Should they take up copies enough to make the experiment a success, Messrs. Trübner & Co. will put forth a complete and exhaustive compilation in which the work at present in hand will reappear accompanied by "a complete corpus of all the Kufic mintages of the Moslem dynasties hitherto made public, an undertaking to be still further extended (always supposing that the public approve), by the publication of a final volume in which shall be given "a more perfect compendium of the latter, or Indian, section" of Mr. Marsden's original work. Among miscellaneous works that almost refuse classification, we observe no less than four editions of the famous "Saurin Trial," which is advertised by some firms with the phrases that were to be expected, such as "startling recollections of convent life," etc. The best edition, and one worth owning, even to people who care nothing at all about the religious aspects of the case, is that published by Messrs. Sampson Low, Son & Marston, for it contains the very clever and readable speeches, revised by himself, of a very able speaker, Sir J. D. Coleridge, the Solicitor-General. It is said in the English papers that Mr. Deutsch, who made such a sensation a year or so since with his "Talmud" article in the *Quarterly*, has recently gone to Palestine and Egypt on business connected with the study of his favorite subject, and that Mr. Murray will before very long publish a monograph from his hand, in which the relations between the Christian religion and morality, and that of the Jews before Christ, will receive full discussion. Mr. Henry Morley is busy with a continuation of his "Tables of English Literature," which shows all contemporary authors, and all books of note, of any given year. "The Wedding-day in all Ages and Countries," by Edward J. Wood, will please the curious. We do not know how exact its information is.

—We find in the *Weser Zeitung* an amusing account of a book entitled "Moniteur des Dates," by Edward Maria Oettinger, said to be a convert

from Judaism to Catholicism, and author of a number of laborious works, of reference, of an historical and biographical character. In the present—a huge quarto, that sells for thirty-five thalers—he pretends to give the origin and nativity, date of marriage and death, of more than 100,000 historical personages of all times and nations, from the creation of the world to the present time, interspersed with curious notes, etc., etc. These notes are indeed curious, as where the compiler, under the title “Locke,” names twenty-one distinguished men who like Locke remained single, and adds—with great frankness, considering his own married condition—“These twenty-one *garçons* outweigh at least 21,000 married chaps.” “Peace to thy blessed ashes, wise raven!” he says to the bookseller Murray, after relating the anecdote of his doubling for Campbell the price demanded for one of his works. In the difficulty of choosing which every dictionary-maker experiences, Mr. Oettinger has not always selected or omitted wisely, nor is his accuracy in details such as to render his work of much value to anybody. Thus, in one instance out of many, he says, of a mineralogist still living: “date of death unknown.” Raphael he describes merely as an “historical painter.” And perhaps as ludicrous a mistake as any that could be found is the location of the Galatian Ancyra—where in 1402 Tamerlane and Sultan Bajazet came to blows so terrifically—in Sicily!

—A recent number of the *Zeitschrift für Völkerpsychologie und Sprachwissenschaft*, of Berlin, contains an essay entitled “Zur Moralstatistik: Der Einfluss der Wohnung auf das Betragen,” by Dr. Etienne Laspeyres, to which we call the attention of all those who take an active interest in the social welfare of the poorer classes. The author says in the introduction: “Among the various endeavors of our age to better the condition of the lower classes, that of reforming dwellings should be considered first in order by all those who do not chase after chimeras or pursue political aims. This reform should stand first, because here already more than in other attempts to elevate the lower classes the right idea has penetrated, that the principal evil under which the lower, but not the lowest, classes suffer is not a failure in acquiring, but wrong modes of consuming. Seneca says: ‘Si quem volueris esse divitem, non est, quod augeas divitias, sed minuas cupiditates.’ But it is not so important to increase wealth or to diminish wants as to increase wants, especially those which are most desirable from a moral point of view. Among the wants to be increased stands first the want of good dwellings, for a pleasant home is the mother of all domestic and public virtues. The humanity of our day does not endeavor to obtain for the lower classes such dwellings as they have had hitherto, at a cheaper price, but to awake in them a desire for dwellings which are, it is true, dearer than the former ones, but better by a far higher degree than they cost. The economy attained lies in the fact that a good dwelling prevents the inmates from many expenses outside the house, to which they have been hitherto driven by the discomforts of homes which were scarcely worthy the name. A higher moral condition is seldom reached by a preaching of morals, but by external advantages; and such an external advantage, through which one should aim at the internal, is the procuring of dwellings suitable for men.” What is the influence of dwellings on morality, the author points out by means of statistics gathered in the city of Paris. The results gained from the research show that “the greater the number of good dwellings, the more unfrequent becomes immorality; the less the number of good dwellings, the more frequent is immorality.” Of course there is here the difficulty of such arguing—the possibility of mistaking cause for effect and effect for cause; bad dwellings as surely come from the immorality of the people dwelling in them, and perhaps much more surely, than the immorality is caused by the bad dwelling. Still it is beyond a doubt that the consideration suggested by the author is a very weighty one. In the number before us are two other highly interesting articles: “Mythological Ideas of God and Soul,” Part II., by H. Cohen, and “The National Epos of Russia,” by W. Bistrom.

—The idea is mooted of uniting the Universities of Marburg and Giessen and transferring them to Frankfort-on-the-Main. Interesting facts have been adduced relative to the latter university, which seem to show that some such step would become a necessity. In 1847 Giessen had 570 students, of whom 159 were not natives of Hesse-Darmstadt, and who were mainly attracted thither by the high reputation of Liebig, then chemical professor at the university. At that time also there was a complete Roman Catholic theological faculty, which drew its quota of young men. In 1850 Liebig received a call to Munich, but would have staid where he was had the Government consented to certain changes and improvements, which he deemed necessary to the maintenance and heightening of the reputation of the scientific, and especially of the chemical

department. He was allowed to remove to Munich. This was the first blow. In 1854 the government of Herr von Dalwigk, a great truckler to the ultra-montane priesthood, allowed the Bishop of Mainz to open a theological seminary in Mainz, and to subject all Catholic students who studied at Giessen to difficulties next to insurmountable. The result was that the Catholic professors in Giessen had to lecture to empty benches, and that the faculty had eventually to be dissolved. This was the second blow. Accordingly, we find, in 1861, only 335 students at the university; in the summer of 1868, only 319, and in the winter semester 1868-’69, only 309, of whom 3 were non-Hessians—the lowest number for the last 46 years. Considering that there are 59 tutors of all ranks: 6 theologians, 6 jurists, 13 medicals, and 34 in the philosophical department, or one professor for between 5 and 6 students, it would seem high time that some change were made.

—We see from a letter of Dr. Petermann’s that the second German North Pole expedition is as good as secure, and will probably leave Bremerhaven in the first week of June—if possible, on the 1st of June. It will consist of two vessels—a screw steamer of 120 tons and 30 horse-power and the sailing yacht of 80 tons employed in the last expedition. The end in view is the same as before, namely, to explore the Arctic region, from seventy-five degrees north latitude onwards, keeping along the East Greenland coast. The command of the whole will be entrusted again to Captain von Koldewey. Two astronomers, Börgen and Copeland, of the observatory at Göttingen; the Alpine traveller, Julius Payer, from Vienna, who will make geological and related observations; and a medical man, who will note the zoölogical phenomena that may present themselves, are to accompany the expedition. It is interesting to find that a love of sea-life and adventure seems to be taking hold of the German youth to a degree hitherto unknown. We are informed, for example, that all the vacancies for sailor boys on board the fleet of the North German Confederation, are filled up till 1871, and that Hamburg, Stettin, and other sea-ports, are crowded with youths wishing to join trading vessels. This is significant; it is at all events a healthy omen for the future of Germany.

THE PROSPECTS OF THE WORKING CLASSES.*

MR. THORNTON, who is already well known in the world of economists for his book on peasant proprietors, has in the volume before us made a very full and lucid summing up of the discussion touching the condition and prospects of the laboring classes. He begins by admitting, as nearly all who treat the question calmly and intelligently now do, that the laborer’s position is one of terrible hardship and discomfort. Probably nothing has done more to sour the temper of the working classes, and widen the breach between them and the more fortunate members of society, than the persistent attempts made by preachers, moralists, and philosophers, to persuade the laborer that his lot was one of “dignity,” and might be sweetened by content if he would only look at it in the right way—and that working in a mine or factory was, after all, no worse than working in a bank, or law office, or study. None of those who promulgate these theories ever recognize their soundness, however, in practice. Nobody leads a life of manual labor who can help it, and nobody treats the laborer in social intercourse as a man whose career is one of “dignity.” In America these matters have been and are now made worse by the pretence constantly put forward, that not only is the laborer’s position an attractive one, but that anybody who pleases can rise out of it; that such is the nature of our institutions that a mechanic has only to be prudent and diligent to become himself a capitalist and employer, the fact being, that the rise of laborers into capitalists is rare, not of course nearly so rare here as in Europe, but rare enough to make the talk of it as a thing on which the laborer may reasonably count, not only misleading but exasperating.

We are glad to see both from Mr. Thornton’s book and Professor Beesley’s recent lecture, that those economists who discuss the laborer’s condition in a purely philosophical spirit, and without putting themselves forward as in any special manner his champions, are laying the foundation of a good understanding with him, by frankly acknowledging that his life is a hard one, and that the chance of ceasing to be a laborer, which is constantly held up before the eyes of “the sons of toil,” by way of reconciling them to their toil, is not sufficiently great to be worth consideration by the mass; that, moreover, what is wanted now, as Professor Beesley has well said, is such an arrangement of the relations between labor and capi-

* “On Labor, Its Wrongful Claims and Rightful Due; its Actual Present and Possible Future. By W. Thomas Thornton.” London: Macmillan & Co. 1869.

talist, as will enable not the energetic, pushing, and sagacious laborers to become capitalists—for the energetic, pushing, and sagacious must always and in every class be but a handful—but the common run of laborers to lead healthier, more comfortable, and more *secure* lives. Mr. Thornton in reply to Mr. J. S. Mill's observation that he does not "recognize as either just or salutary a state of society in which there is any class which is not laboring . . . except those unable to labor, or who have fairly earned rest by previous toil"—well says that "what to him appears so deplorable, is not so much that there should be a class exempt from the necessity of labor, as that there should be one to whom it is necessary to be incessantly laboring." This really touches the kernel of the labor question. The problem before society is not to convert a few dozen more laborers every year into employers or men of leisure, but to give the whole laboring class a larger share of the leisure which in the present state of science the world has at its disposal.

Mr. Thornton in discussing the influence of supply and demand on prices and wages, repudiates the received theory, and maintains that both prices and wages are in practice fixed by competition—as regards prices, between dealers, and as regards wages, between laborers—and maintains that the doctrine of the economists, that the rise in either case is the product of a certain amount of haggling between the purchasers and sellers of either goods or labor, is a figment of the imagination. The chapter on this point is original and striking. He makes a good deal of fun of the "wages fund," of which the economists talk so much, and pronounces it a "will o' the wisp," which has no existence. He says, by way of a *reductio ad absurdum*, that if there be such a fund in existence, it must be composed of small sums in the hands of individuals, and asks triumphantly, where are these sums to be found? By "wages fund," however, is usually meant simply that portion of the capital of a country which is available for the employment of labor, and that is not so difficult to discover as Mr. Thornton seems to think. Nobody keeps "capital" by him in his house, so that it will never be found in the hands of individuals; but everybody who has money invested, or lying at his bank, in reality has made a contribution to the wages fund. Every workingman who puts five dollars in the savings bank, thereby puts five dollars in the hands of somebody who will use it to hire labor in some form or other, because otherwise the bank could not afford to pay interest on it, and, in fact, its yielding interest is one of the signs that a sum of money is somewhere and somehow used as part of the wages fund.

The doctrine of Mr. Thornton with regard to the rights and duties of labor and the rights and duties of capital is as far removed from the Socialist view as the most ardent supporter of competition could desire. He shows conclusively that the laborer has no right to anything but the product of his labor; that to claim for him a right to employment, is simply to claim for him the right to use a part of the product of other people's past labor; that the capitalist owes him nothing but what he agrees to give him, and that he is entitled to nothing except what he can bargain for; in other words, that individual liberty lies at the basis of all healthy social life, and that all theories which diminish it are anti-social in their tendency. But inasmuch as the laborer is entitled to all he can bargain for, and his poverty has always put him at a disadvantage in treating with the capitalist, Mr. Thornton defends vigorously his right to put himself as nearly on a level with the capitalist as possible, by combination. In other words he defends the trades unions, and his chapter about them, showing what good and what evil they have wrought, to what extent they have permanently raised wages, and aided in the moral and social training of the working classes, is one of the most interesting in the book. His exposure of the fallacy so constantly put forward that wages lost by a strike are always dead loss, even when the strike is followed by a rise, furnishes an excellent illustration of the acuteness he brings to the discussion, and his theory that the loss ought really be treated as money sunk in bettering the condition of the laboring class, and the rise in wages as interest on it, is worth everybody's attention.

But for real and permanent improvement in the workingman's condition Mr. Thornton looks, as a greater and greater number of calm observers look every day, to the extension of industrial partnerships and of coöperation only. To the extension of industrial partnerships there are two serious obstacles: one is that their existence must always depend on the will of a few individuals, and that their success is very difficult in any branch of industry in which the sum expended on labor does not bear a very large proportion to the sum expended on material, and machinery, and buildings. In only two instances have they been completely successful in England—the Briggs' Colliery and the Crossley Carpet Manufactory. To coöperative production, pure and simple, there are the old objections that

it requires more intelligence and self-restraint than workingmen usually possess, and that a manager competent to take charge of great industrial operations cannot be obtained by popular election and retained by hire. But to this it must be replied that workingmen are every day gaining in intelligence, self-restraint, and skill in combination; that coöperative production has already succeeded in a great number of instances, and that whatever difficulties it now encounters in defects of human character, are no greater than have been encountered and overcome in other fields of activity; and that the difficulty in obtaining business managers for coöperative societies is no greater than the great joint stock companies have to deal with, and may be and will be met in the same way. If it be said that a manufactory is like an army, and has to be managed on the same plan, the answer is that some of the greatest generals the world has seen were picked out of the crowd by the popular estimate of their ability, were hired to do their work, and did their work well, partly for pay, partly from love of reputation, and partly from love of the cause. The coöperative army can surely find its generals in the same manner.

Anybody who desires a clear and candid statement of every phase of the labor controversy, a decidedly vigorous, though by no means dry treatment of all the points of political economy which this controversy raises, as well as a very full and interesting account of the working of the trades unions, industrial partnerships, and coöperative associations, both in England and on the continent, can hardly do better than read Mr. Thornton's book. There are several passages which we had marked as open to exception, but which want of space prevents our discussing; such for instance as that in which he accepts in its ordinary form the prevailing doctrine that high profits raise wages, by causing a flow of capital into the business in which they are made, leaving out of sight, what is to the laborer the most important element in the case, the element of time. Capital is attracted to a business by large profits, but it flows into it slowly, and rarely affects wages in less than two or three years. The rule therefore, as a consolation for laborers, or as an argument against strikes, is about as valuable as the old saying: "Live, horse, and you'll get grass."

TWO NEW BOOKS OF AMERICAN TRAVEL.*

IN a pleasant letter prefixed to his recent volume, "By-Ways of Europe," Mr. Bayard Taylor tells the public in confidence that this is, probably, the last book of travels he shall publish. A few interesting portions of the globe remain unvisited, and circumstances may occur to draw him toward them; but this he does not anticipate and does not desire. He loves the repose of domestic life, on the spot where he was born. He is not a traveller by profession, though his profession as a journalist has made him a traveller. He is not a traveller by choice, though practice, in time, made travelling pleasant, and at moments the passion of the explorer came over him. He has no inordinate fondness for adventure; no restless desire for change; no over-mastering curiosity to behold all the aspects of nature; no ambition to be a discoverer of new worlds, or of new beauties in old worlds. He puts a modest estimate on the value of his journeyings, and on the pages that record them; regards the entire nomadic period of his career as incidental, not more than tributary, and hardly that, to his real work, which is that of a man of letters. Mr. Taylor's judgment of his eleven popular volumes of travel, evidently sincere, is far more just than such judgments usually are. The value of his books is not scientific in any sense; they do not aspire to be scientific; they are not written with any purpose to instruct mankind on any technical matters touching the globe or its inhabitants; they are made up mainly of newspaper correspondence, letters, diaries, and popular lectures, prepared by the way, or worked up from materials collected on the road, and are faithful records of incident, rather than labored productions of thought. But lest this should seem to be rating them lower than they deserve, it should be said that for books of their kind they are remarkably good. Few men take such pains to do secondary labor as well as they can. Had Mr. Taylor made travelling a profession, he could scarcely have done it better. His powers of observation have been cultivated; his style has been carefully trained; he has learned many languages; he has gathered the requisite information from authentic sources; he has read much about the countries he visited; he is awake, intelligent, ready and always capable of telling his readers whatever it may be interesting or agreeable for them to know. His pages are not learned nor brilliant, nor fascinating, nor remarkably suggestive. They contain no fine writing; no elegant passages; no highly wrought descriptions; no profound theoriz-

* "By-Ways of Europe. By Bayard Taylor." New York: G. P. Putnam & Son. 1869.
 "The Old World in Its New Face. By Rev. Henry W. Bellows, D.D." Volumes I., II. New York: Harper & Bros. 1868, 1869.

ings. They give an even, steady flow of agreeable talk about things that come under the eye of an accomplished man. Careful, sober, business-like, they leave on the reader's mind an impression of entire accuracy. The author makes a point of painting details one by one, setting down each fact precisely as it existed, in form and color and relations. He dresses nothing up; he tosses nothing down. No intellectual vapors distort, cloud, or glorify his scenes. He is as fair as the photograph. To the romantic or sentimental reader this is not interesting; it is tame and monotonous, rather. But to the sober, rational reader it is satisfactory. We can understand what Humboldt meant when he said to the modest, self-deprecating traveller, "You paint the world as we explorers of nature cannot. Do not undervalue what you have done. It is a real service; and the unscientific traveller, who knows the use of his eyes, observes for us, always, without being aware of it."

The present volume contains a series of sketches of interesting places not commonly visited by the tourist or traveller. They are done in the author's painstaking manner. The reader detects in them a hardly perceptible trace of weariness, as if travelling had become an old story. But saving this lack of relish, the book is as good as any of the preceding ten. A few of the chapters are very engaging. We enjoyed especially the "Grande Chartreuse," of which one gets a different but more satisfactory impression from Mr. Taylor than from Mr. Matthew Arnold, and the "Island of Madalena," with the distant view of Caprera, and the admirable portrait of Garibaldi. No one can read those two chapters and then charge the writer with being either an inaccurate observer, a careless narrator, or an incompetent critic. Indeed, it is because of his excellence in these cardinal respects and his conscientious adherence to what he deems the traveller's duty that to many he appears restrained and dull. He aims at presenting the simple truth, with pre-Raphaelite accuracy. His imaginative and speculative faculties find play elsewhere. As literary productions these volumes of Mr. Taylor may easily be surpassed. But as books of observation their value will be permanent.

On opening the second volume of Dr. Bellows's *Letters from Europe*, fancifully, and not very appropriately called "The Old World in its New Face," we find ourselves in another atmosphere entirely. The qualities that distinguish Dr. Bellows and shine all over his pages, Mr. Taylor either lacks or discards. Dr. Bellows is brilliant, Mr. Taylor is sober; Dr. Bellows speculates, Mr. Taylor observes; Dr. Bellows always has a theory to account for what he sees, Mr. Taylor keeps his theories to himself and contents himself with telling what he sees. Intelligent, eager, swift, his brain teeming, his mind running far in advance of his information, Dr. Bellows incessantly interposes his personal feelings and judgments between the reader and the scenes through which he takes him. Mr. Taylor, more careful and experienced, more conscientious as a narrator—more modest perhaps—keeps himself studiously in the background. One volume, therefore, is a magazine of facts, the other a collection of criticisms. Dr. Bellows's volume is the more fascinating of the two, but we are forced to pronounce it by far the less useful. It is composed of a multitude of letters written by a rapid traveller in great haste. The information his volumes contain must have been picked up by the way. The descriptions of natural scenery are of the slightest character, fleeting and shadowy; a hurried touch here and there is all we get; an immense reach of ground is traversed; but when we close the book, instead of a series of firm, well-wrought pictures of scenery, life, and manners, we have the remembrance of a flying figure with a trail of light behind him. The trail of light is remarkable. The chapters sparkle with good things. An ingenious fancy, a lively conceit, a bright surmise, a pious morality, a quick-witted explanation or conjecture, meets the reader in almost every sentence. The agile, discursive intellect so anticipates the sterner faculty that investigates, that when the latter arrives on the ground it finds its work all done—at least it finds its place preoccupied, and no time or patience for its methods. This evident preponderance of the speculative over the observing power, throws the historical and statistical portions of the chapters into the shadow of a perplexing distrust. Dr. Bellows's statements of fact may be entirely correct; but where correctness of statement is a secondary consideration, we soon learn to question it, and the bare suspicion of inadequate knowledge destroys the confidence that knowledge alone can justify. This suspicion crosses us so frequently in perusing these pages, that it at last becomes a permanent state of mind.

It seemed likely that a clergyman would supply some interesting information in regard to Jerusalem. But there also the same predominance of the speculative over the investigating faculty showed itself. We have but little description and no fresh knowledge. Robinson is once or twice referred to on matters of topography; but no reference whatever is made to

Lieut. Warren, the able explorer who is employed by the Palestine Fund and whose excavations, opening a new era in Palestinian research, cast discredit on very much that has been discovered or surmised before. The chapter is interesting, but it certainly puts no new face on that portion of the Old World.

Remembering the author's zeal for the Cretan cause, we turned naturally to the chapters bearing on that question. But here, too, the same dazzling uncertainty of view confuses us. We read in one sentence: "What business has the Turk in Europe any longer? Two or three millions of Turks and Moslems govern, at present, all the rest (from eleven to thirteen millions), who not only have the intelligence but the enterprise and wealth of the nation in their hands." The question is partly answered in the next sentence, which admits that "the Christians have not as good a name for integrity, veracity, and frankness as the Turk himself, who, lazy and conceited as he is, slow to learn and dull at that, is proud, sticks to his word, and disdains to cheat. He loves and practises his religion, too, and despises Christians for neglecting theirs." In the next chapters the Greeks get no more praise for their civilizing, than has just been awarded them for their moral qualities:

"Beyond a circle of a few miles about Athens, there is no such thing as a public road in Greece, and of course there can be no development of commerce, no inducement to agriculture, no safety in rural districts, no home out of the towns." "Out of a few towns like Athens, Syra, Nauplia, Patras, Missolonghi, their houses are rude, unfurnished, and inconceivably comfortless; men, women, children, dogs, sheep, goats, pigs, often herding in a common sty—for their rude huts deserve no better name." They are so satisfied with what Greece has done and been, that they love their name and country, independent of what it now is, and respect themselves independently of what they now are. "They will fight for ever for their liberties, but they will not submit to the drudgery, the painstaking imitation of European customs, and slow, well-considered methods by which alone their country can be restored, their soil recovered, their houses improved, their finances reinstated, their mechanic arts and agricultural industry renewed. They import twice as much as they export, and are always running deeper in debt."

This is true, and it is well said; but is it quite consistent with indignation at the Turks abiding in Europe, or with enthusiasm in behalf of the Greeks as their antagonists and successors?

CURRENT GERMAN LITERATURE.

HEINRICH BLANKENBURG'S "Internal Struggles of the North American Union down to the Presidential Election of 1868" (*Die innern Kämpfe der Nordamerikanischen Union bis zur Präsidentenwahl von 1868*. Leipzig: Brockhaus) is another sign of the intense interest Europe has begun to take in the history of the United States, since the happy termination of the great civil war. The book is divided into three sections, headed respectively: The causes and development of the internal struggle till the Southern rebellion; the war of secession; the political struggles since the termination of the war of secession. An appendix contains a complete German translation of the Constitution with its amendments, and a clearly executed map of the States. The opening sentences give one a favorable impression of the author's spirit and intelligence; he refers to three historical phenomena as having determined the character and course of events during the present century; viz., Frederic the Great, the French Revolution, and the foundation of the United States. Of the last-mentioned event he rightly remarks that its significance was never fully estimated till after the late war. Friederich v. Raumer was the first to put it on a level with the French Revolution; but whereas the latter was mainly a negative movement, the foundation of the great Republic was a grand positive movement towards the solution of social and political problems, which for Europe are encompassed with almost unconquerable difficulties.

Attention should be called to two theological works which have just appeared, namely, "Christian Dogmatics" (*Christliche Dogmatik*) by Prof. Biedermann of Zürich, and "God, World, and Man" (*Gott, Welt und Mensch*) by Eduard Baltzer. Professor Biedermann may be regarded as the scientific head of what is known in Germany as the *Zeitstimmen* party. *Zeitstimmen* (Voices of the Time, is the name of a popular theological journal, edited by Lang, a Swiss pastor, the object of which is, in the main, to impregnate the public with the views of religion, Christianity, God, man, time, and eternity known as the Tübingen views. Professor Biedermann is the principal scientific theological co-operator of Pastor Lang. The system of theology to which we are here referring may loosely, if not strictly, be described as Hegelian in its philosophic basis, Straussian in its critical character and results, and practically Pelagian as opposed to Augustinian. The author of the second book is a preacher of the so-called *Freie Ge-*

meinde (Free Associations) and probably their ablest man. As to these *Free Associations* there is little difference between them and the English *Secularists*:—one might say that if the two were to exchange nationalities they would exchange characteristics also. Herr Baltzer believes that a new religion or, perhaps rather, a new form of Christianity has become necessary; and has written his book for the purpose of expounding and preparing the way for the adoption of what he holds to be the religion of the future; to wit, the religion of the *Freie Gemeinde*. In an introduction he discusses the nature of religion, and in six further chapters the doctrine of the Beautiful, or *Æsthetics*; the theory of the world, or *Dogmatics*; the doctrine of self-knowledge or the *Philosophy of Religion, Ethics, Art*; and the doctrine of work, or *Biology*.

A work praised as learned and impartial, though decidedly Protestant, is Barmann's "Politics of the Popes from Gregory I. to Gregory VII." (*Die Politik der Päpste von Gregor I. bis auf Gregor VII.* of which two parts have appeared. A good view of the Life and Times of the Emperor Diocletian is presented by Theodor Preuss in his *Kaiser Diocletian und seine Zeit*, just published by Dunker & Humblot. It is said to do violence occasionally to the sources for the sake of establishing harmony and certainty where they are not realizable; but light is also thrown on such events as the burning of the Egyptian books of witchcraft, on the exclusive persecution of the Oriental religions, and on the reasons of Diocletian's special antipathy to Christianity. Professor Dr. Wagner's treatise on "Russian Paper Money" (*Die Russische Papier-Währung*) published by Kymmel of Riga, in which he makes suggestions as to the best mode of returning to silver or gold payments, deserves the attention of all who understand German. The author stands high amongst German writers on banking and financial questions. The work consists of a theoretical and a practical part:—the former developing general principles; the latter relating specially to Russia.

The first volume of a new, and what promises to be a very full, history of the Seven Years' war (*Geschichte des Siebenjährigen Krieges*) by Arnold Schaeffer, has recently been published by Hertz of Berlin. It is divided into three books, the first discussing the origin of the war: the second, the war itself from its outbreak to the Austro-French treaty of spoliation; the third, the war-year 1757. The account given of the European state-system prior to the war; of the politics of the great powers after the peace of Aix-la-Chapelle, and of the general position of Europe at the time, is marked by great clearness, correctness, and judgment. The course pursued by France, in particular, is shown to have been decidedly influenced by Madame Pompadour, the mistress of Louis XV., who was irritated at Frederic the Great because, when Voltaire came to express the great respect she entertained for him, he replied, "Who is she? I don't know her,"—a contempt which forced from her the genuine woman's threat, "I'll make him know me!" Herr Schaeffer has had access to, and has made good use of, all sorts of archives. Among other important documents adduced by him is one whose existence has been repeatedly denied—recently, for example by the Hanoverian historiographer, Klopp, in his work on Frederic the Great—namely, the offensive treaty formed between Austria and France against Prussia: the Russian Government put him in possession of it. Those who wish for an able—though naturally Prussian—history of this eventful war cannot do better than consult the above work.

It has hitherto been popularly assumed that whilst the German language is greatly indebted to the French, the latter owes very little to the former. A German writer of the name of Brandes, in a work entitled, "Words derived from the German in the French Language," (*Die Wörter deutschen Stammes in der französischen Sprache*) and published by Meyer in Detmold, has undertaken to show that this is a mistaken notion, and seems pretty successfully to establish his position. Who would have thought that warlike, glory-hunting France owed so many terms relating to war, to peaceable, philosophic Germany? and yet such words as *bataillon*, *brèche*, *garde*, *bivouac*, *blindes*, *guerre*, can be traced to German roots. The same thing may be said of sea-terms, like *avarie*, *ballast*, *bord*, *cajute*, *espaure*, *étai*, *harpon*, *houle*, *mât*, *matelot*, *prame*, *rade*, *sennaque*, *guinder*, *haler*, *hisser*, *toner*; of many titles of office, as, *e.g.*, *landgrave*, *marquis*, *maire*, *sénéchal*, *maréchal*, *sergent*; of feudal expressions like *barre*, *bourg*, *hameau*, *hanse*, *sief*, *félonie*, *vassal*; of architectural terms, like *balcon*, *bouge*, *digue*, *salle*, *seuil*, *stalle*; of the names of animals, like *bison*, *bécassine*, *caille*, *choucas*, *chouan*, *chat*, *écrevisse*, *escarbot*, *gerfaut*, *grillon*, *hamster*, *héron*, *mouette*, *rat*, *renard*. One is not surprised to find that words for eating and drinking have passed from the German to the French side of the Rhine, as, *e.g.*, *bière*, *bouteille*, *cruche*, *douve*, *fouillage*, *hanap*, *soupe*, *tonne*, *rôtir*: but it is curious that the

French, whom no one credits with the gift of keeping their tongues in order, should owe or get their designations for chattering, etc., to the solemn Germans; for example, *chaqueter*, *causer*, *flaboyer*, *haranguer*. It is not strange that the French *mignon*, with its compounds, is derived from that distinctively German term *minne*.

The following is a classified list of the books published in Germany during the year 1868 as compared with 1867. A similar list is published every year by the bookselling firm of Hinrichs in Leipzig—the publishers of the weekly, quarterly, and annual catalogues of all the new books that appear in every department of science and literature.

	1867.	1868.
1. Encyclopædias, Collected works, Bibliography.....	163	106
2. Theology.....	1865	1440
3. Jurisprudence, Politics, Statistics.....	980	970
4. Medicine, the Veterinary art.....	493	523
5. Natural Science, Chemistry, Pharmacy.....	575	631
6. Philosophy.....	85	126
7a. Pedagogics, German Schoolbooks, Gymnastics.....	932	908
7b. Children's books.....	228	246
8. Classical and Oriental languages, Mythology.....	470	440
9. Modern languages, Early German literature.....	390	322
10. History, Biography, Memoirs, Correspondence.....	643	710
11. Geography.....	249	290
12. Mathematics, Astronomy.....	119	134
13. Military matters, the Horse.....	272	281
14. Commerce and Trade.....	330	425
15. Architecture, Machinery, Railways, Shipping.....	168	190
16. Arboriculture, the Chase, Mining, etc.....	88	83
17. Agriculture and Horticulture.....	245	280
18. Belles-Lettres (novels, poetry, etc.).....	852	968
19. The fine arts (painting, music, etc.), Stenography.....	397	457
20. Popular works (tales, etc.).....	217	227
21. Freemasonry.....	13	14
22. Miscellaneous works.....	423	381
23. Slavic and Hungarian literature.....	36	48
24. Maps.....	234	225
	9,855	10,563

According to this comparative list there were 708 more works published in 1868 than in 1867. It will be seen that the greatest increase has been in the department of belles-lettres—probably in consequence of the publication of a great many tales and poems of little value. The next largest increase is in books relating to trade and commerce—a circumstance which might be taken as a sign that the Germans are becoming less idealistic in their pursuits. Whether such a deduction would be right or not, I believe it is a fact; and the well-wishers of the nation cannot but rejoice if it take a more realistic turn. Next comes theology. If one were not aware that an awful number of pamphlets—each reckoning of course as a separate work—had been issued during the year on the subject "What will Prussia, the all-devouring, do with the Lutheran churches in the annexed provinces?" one would be inclined to exult, and say, "Surely the reports of Germany being over-run with materialism, atheism, deism, tendencies not favorable to theological productiveness, must be either groundless or exaggerated!" As might have been prophesied in view of the legal changes that have been going on in North Germany, the law department shows also a not inconsiderable augmentation. But the men of science have been still more active. There is one question the list does not suggest—how many of the above works are mere waste paper? We fear a larger proportion than most believe. It is impossible to answer the question, for the publishers bury their still-born offspring in the silence and dead of night. Of one thing, however, we are sure, that the *bookbuyers* bear no proportion to the *book-makers*: *how*, this is not the place to explain.

Abriss der Deutschen Literaturgeschichte. Von Dr. E. P. Evans, Professor der neueren Sprachen und Literatur an der Universität von Michigan. (New York: Leypoldt & Holt. 1869. 12mo, pp. 235.)—The German language is now a regular study in all our respectable colleges, and in some of them a required study. After the first or second year of the collegiate course, students have their option whether they will keep on with Greek or substitute this modern tongue. A very large number avail themselves of this privilege, and probably two thirds of the Junior and Senior classes choose German as one of their principal studies. In the distraction of college society, and in the short time allowed for the study, it appears to be impracticable to teach students to *speak* the language with fluency or grammatical accuracy. What a wise teacher most cares for is, to give a general knowledge of the language and literature, and enable the student to see its treasures. Three months of residence in Germany will ensure more familiarity with the spoken tongue than three years of study in one of our colleges, even under a competent master. The most important aid to a teacher in giving a knowledge of German literature, its varieties, its growth, and its characteristics, is a good historical sketch of that literature, which shall be at once comprehensive, concise, well-balanced, and accurate in its judgments. Every experienced teacher feels the need of such a help

in his work. The model book for German teaching will be one which can be used as a text-book for study, while it tells the story of the language itself. Such a book, we are of opinion, Professor Evans has produced in his "Abridgment of the History of German Literature." He gives in it, without extracts, not only pleasant and easy reading in a clear and pure German style, but an amount of information concerning the German novelists, dramatists, and poets, from the earliest records of the people, that can scarcely be found elsewhere in the same compass. While there are in the book none of those pedagogic notes which mark the ordinary text-book, there are others embodying very useful references, as well as marginal guides to keep in mind the order of time and place, and hinder the student from confusion; though we think it would have been better if these last had been reserved for authors only, and not also for the titles of works. The table of contents is very full, and is much more than a bare statement of the subject. The index at the end is all that could be desired. A more useful book for practical instruction has not, for a long time, come under our notice.

But we should do injustice to Professor Evans if we should leave the impression that he has made here nothing but a school-book. On the contrary, many who consider themselves German scholars will thank him for this compendium of literary history in which there is not a word of irrelevant matter, and very few judgments to which any candid scholar will take exception. Some will perhaps be disappointed that more notice is not taken of their favorite authors. Others may find that names that they expected to see are wholly omitted. But in a work of this kind some names must be omitted—on a principle well defined in the introduction—and others must be passed with a bare mention. Every really important name in German literature will be found in the volume, and every significant author appears in his place. The book does not profess to be exhaustive. It is an "abridgment," which may easily be read in two months by a college class, and, of course, cannot have the completeness of such solid treatises as those of Koberstein and Gödeke, of Kurz and Gervinus.

But many of the criticisms of these authors appear here in the sharp and clear sentences of the American professor. Instead, however, of the single long chapter of which the book consists, it seems to us that greater clearness would have been attained by distinguishing typographically the epochs which the author has adopted. It would have added nothing to the bulk or cost of the volume.

Our Charley, and What to do with Him. By Mrs. H. B. Stowe. (Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott & Co. 1869.)—Mrs. Stowe discusses the question of childhood in the essays which give a name to this little volume with her usual good sense and good feeling. The book is not a new one, and its intrinsic worth was not probably the primary reason for reprinting it, although, to be sure, appropriate occasions for talks like these about Charley to Charley's mother and other natural guardians, are, we suppose, perennial. It is only of Mrs. Stowe's portion of the book, however, that we are inclined to speak with any praise. The little fairy tales contributed by a friend are rather sad examples of the ineffectual efforts of the imaginative faculty to blossom into luxuriance under chilling influences.

BOOKS OF THE WEEK.

Authors.—Titles.	Publishers.—Prices.
Alcott (Miss L. M.), Little Women.....	(Roberts Bros.)
Auerbach (B.), The Villa on the Rhine, swd., Part II.....	(Leypoldt & Holt) \$0 50
Baker (Sir S. W.), The Rifle and the Hoard in Ceylon.....	(J. B. Lippincott & Co.)
Edwards (E.), The Life of Sir Walter Raleigh, 2 vols.....	(Macmillan & Co.)
Ellis (Rev. G. E.), Memoir of Jared Sparks, LL.D., swd.....	(Cambridge)
Francko, (A.), La Morale pour Tous.....	(L. Hachette & Co.)
Hinton (H. L.), Booth's Acting Plays, No. 8, Othello, swd.....	(Hurd & Houghton) 0 20
Koner (Prof Dr. W.), Zeitschrift der Gesellschaft für Erdkunde zu Berlin, No. 19.....	(D. Reimer)
Packard (Dr. A. S., Jr.), Guide to the Study of Insects, Part VI, swd.....	(Essex Institute) 0 50
Raymond (R. W.), The Mines of the West.....	(J. B. Ford & Co.) 1 75
Rodrigues (H.), La Justice de Dieu.....	(Michel Lévy Frères)
Rydberg (V.), The Last Athenian: A Tale.....	(T. B. Peterson & Bros.) 1 50
Scott (Sir W.), The Tallman, swd.....	(T. B. Peterson & Bros.) 0 30
Walsh (J. H.), The Horse, in the Stable and the Field.....	(T. B. Peterson & Bros.) 0 30
Wiley (C. A.), Elocution and Oratory.....	(Porter & Coates)
Wythe (Rev. W. W.), Pulpit Gems.....	(Clark & Maynard)
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